

MILITARY

USS Fitzgerald finally departs for repairs stateside
Page 2

WAR ON TERRORISM

Uncertainty reigns as officials gather to mull Iraq's post-ISIS future
Page 6

FACES

'Ferdinand' star, former WWE champion Cena gives thoughts on marriage proposal, politics
Page 17



Sooners QB Mayfield takes home Heisman » Page 30

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ARMY WINS

For the first time since '96, West Point has streak of its own

Back page



West Point cadets celebrate a touchdown during the annual Army-Navy football game at Lincoln Financial Field on Saturday in Philadelphia. Army won 14-13.

TIM TAI, PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS/TNS

US faced down threat of conflict with N. Korea in '94

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a nuclear standoff with North Korea more than two decades ago — long before the reclusive government had atomic weapons that could threaten America — U.S. officials planned for war.

Declassified documents published Friday show the U.S. believed its military and South Korea's forces would "undoubtedly win" a conflict on the divided Korean Peninsula, with the understanding it would cost many casualties.

The Pentagon estimated at the time that some 52,000 American servicemembers would be killed or wounded in the first three months. South Korean military casualties would total 490,000 in that time.

The Pentagon estimated at the time that if war broke out with Korea, some 52,000 American servicemembers would be killed or wounded in the first three months. South Korean military casualties would total 490,000 in that time. And the number of

North Korean and civilian lives claimed would be enormous, according to "The Two Koreas" by Don Oberdorfer, a definitive modern history of the Korean Peninsula.

Today, with North Korea almost able to directly threaten the U.S. mainland with

nuclear strikes, the possibility of conflict looms as it had in 1994. President Donald Trump has vowed to stop the North Koreans from reaching such capability.

Twenty-three years ago, the stakes were different.

At that time, President Bill Clinton's administration considered a cruise missile strike on a North Korean nuclear complex after it began defueling a reactor that could provide fissile material for bombs for the first time. Former President Jimmy Carter headed off a conflict, meeting with founding North Korean leader

SEE CONFLICT ON PAGE 3

MILITARY

USS Fitzgerald finally departs for repairs in US

By TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The collision-damaged USS Fitzgerald has finally left Japan for repairs stateless after an earlier attempt was canceled due to a botched loading process.

The guided-missile destroyer departed its Yokosuka homeport Saturday morning aboard the heavy lift vessel MV Transshelf, the Navy said. The Fitzgerald is being taken to Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss., for fixes and upgrades.

A deadly collision on June 17 between the Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged merchant ship killed seven sailors and injured three others. The Navy relieved



BENJAMIN DOBBS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USS Fitzgerald, shown on Dec. 1, is again en route to Mississippi aboard the heavy lift transport vessel MV Transshelf.

the ship's two senior officers and a senior enlisted sailor. Several other officers and enlisted watch standers were also held ac-

countable for the accident.

The crippled warship attempted to leave Yokosuka on Nov. 23 but was sent back days later to repair two new punctures in the ship's hull caused by the Transshelf's steel support structure during loading.

Huntington Ingalls Industries was chosen to repair the destroyer because the company would be able to restore the ship in the shortest amount of time, Naval Sea Systems Command said in a statement issued in August.

"Given the complexity of the work and the significant unknowns of the restoration, the Navy determined that only an Arleigh Burke-class shipbuilder could perform the effort," the statement said.

The project's start date, scope, cost and timeline are still to be determined, it added.

The Fitzgerald incident was the first of two deadly accidents involving U.S. warships in the Pacific this year. Ten more sailors were killed in August when the USS John S. McCain — also homeported at Yokosuka — collided with an oil tanker east of Singapore.

The McCain, which is scheduled to be repaired at Yokosuka, has been delayed reaching its homeport after the discovery of additional cracks in the ship's hull diverted it to the Philippines.

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US soldier killed in traffic accident in South Korea

By YOO KYONG CHANG
AND KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A U.S. soldier was killed when a truck slammed into a military ambulance and a car that had pulled over to the side of a highway after an earlier collision south of Seoul, officials said Friday.

The Eighth Army confirmed that a 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade soldier died of injuries suffered in a vehicle accident. The soldier was not further identified pending family notification.

"Medical aid was provided on the scene until the soldier was transported via ambulance to the Good Morning Hospital," the Eighth Army said in a statement. "The incident is under investigation."

It did not give more details, but local police and rescue officials said the collision occurred on the highway northwest of Pyeongtaek, where Camp Humphreys is located, about 11:30 p.m. Thursday.

The deadly chain of events began when a car rear-ended the U.S. military vehicle on an interchange, prompting the soldier to get out to examine the damage. An 8-ton cargo truck then slammed into them, according to the regional fire service.

Photos from the scene showed what appeared to be a camouflage Humvee ambulance on its side next to smashed vehicles.

Another man was injured, officials said.

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Courtesy of Gyeonggi-do Fire Services

Responders work at the scene of a fatal vehicle accident in South Korea on Thursday.

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup 16
Business 18
Faces 17
Classified 19, 23
Comics 22
Crossword 22
Opinion 20-21
Sports 24-32
Weather 18

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MILITARY

Air Force readies for holiday drop to Pacific islands

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Santa's sleigh looks like an Air Force cargo plane to many people living on isolated Pacific islands.

The crews of Japan- and Guam-based C-130J Super Hercules aircraft are preparing for this year's Operation Christmas Drop — a long-running annual mission to provide much-needed supplies to the islands.

This year's airtift mission, which kicks off Monday, includes the Yokota-based 37th Airlift Wing and Andersen Air Force Base's 36th Air Wing. The Royal Australian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force also are taking part.

The packages contain items such as fishing nets, construction materials, powdered milk, canned goods, rice, coolers, clothing, shoes, school supplies and, of course, toys.

The Australian air force deployed a C-130J and its crew to Andersen on Thursday.

"Operation Christmas Drop provides support to more than 20,000 people in remote communities spread over six million square kilometers across the West Pacific including the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau," Air Commodore Richard Lennon, commander of Australia's Air Mobility Group, said in a statement.

Lennon praised the training value of the operation, in which crews must plan and execute a challenging mission in an unfamiliar drop zone, delivering parcels weighing more than 400 pounds.

"Many of these communities have little physical contact with the outside world, and airdrop is an excellent means of delivering supplies when there's no other quick alternative, either due to the distances involved or lack of available infrastructure," Lennon said.

Christmas Drop began in 1952



DELANO SCOTT/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

An Operation Christmas Drop bundle is dropped over the Federated States of Micronesia on Dec. 8, 2016.

when crewmembers of a WB-29 reconnaissance aircraft noticed islanders of the atoll of Kapin-gamarangi waving at them as

they passed overhead. The crew decided to box up items from the cabin, attached a parachute and circled around to drop it to them.

Australia and Japan have assisted in the operation since 2015.

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Conflict: Expert says all-out war could see casualties like those of WWI

FROM FRONT PAGE

Kim II Sung and helping seal an aid-for-disarmament agreement. The pact endured for nearly a decade, despite frequent disputes and periodic flare-ups on the peninsula.

"We had taken a very strong position that we would not permit North Korea to make a nuclear bomb," William Perry, who was defense secretary during the crisis, said last week. "We have said that many times since then, but then we really meant it."

A declassified transcript published by the National Security Archive at George Washington University records Perry's discussion on the standoff with South Korea's president in 1958. Perry was by then Clinton's special envoy for North Korea.

Perry told President Kim Dae-jung that

the U.S. had planned for a military confrontation and that "with the combined forces of the ROK and U.S., we can undoubtedly win the war."

ROK refers to the abbreviation of the South's official name, the Republic of Korea.

Speaking to South Korea's Kim, who pursued a "sunshine" policy of diplomatic outreach to North Korea, Perry said the "war involves many casualties in the process. As a former defense secretary, I am well aware of the negative aspects of war and will do my best to avoid war."

North Korea has since made leaps and bounds in its nuclear and missile development, particularly under its current young leader, Kim Jong Un. Most recently, it tested an intercontinental ballistic mis-

sile with a likely range of more than 8,000 miles, moving it closer to perfecting a nuclear-tipped projectile that can strike all corners of the U.S. mainland.

Trump has not ruled out using force to stop the North from achieving that capability if diplomacy fails. Backing up the threat, the U.S. has stepped up its military drills with allies, which Pyongyang condemns as preparations for invasion.

Last week, the U.S. and South Korea held air force drills involving more than 200 aircraft, including six U.S. F-22 and 18 F-35 stealth fighters.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry warned last week, "The remaining question now is: When will the war break out."

Speaking at an Arms Control Association briefing in Washington, Perry urged

a renewed effort at diplomacy, which he said wouldn't get North Korea to give up its nukes in short order but could lower the likelihood of war.

He said a nuclear-armed North Korea wouldn't attack America but may be emboldened in military provocations against South Korea that could spiral into a wider conflict.

The U.S. could itself blunder into a nuclear war if it undertook a conventional military strike on North Korea that prompted the North to attack the South, he said.

"An all-out war with North Korea, nuclear war, even if China and Russia did not enter, could still entail casualties approximating those of World War I or even World War II," Perry said.

US wants world to isolate N. Korea, so what does that mean?

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When President Donald Trump's U.N. ambassador recently urged the world to sever diplomatic ties with North Korea, she was sketchy on the details: Should all embassies close? How about those providing the U.S. intelligence from the largely inscrutable country? And what of Sweden, which helps with imprisoned Americans?

Nikki Haley's recent call to action underscores the challenge for the United States as it tries to

advance a nonmilitary strategy for resolving the nuclear standoff with North Korea.

Isolating the reclusive, totalitarian state has been a central component of the U.S. plan, even though Washington says it remains open to talks.

The Trump administration believes the diplomatic isolation, like international economic penalties, serves two purposes.

It's designed to punish North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for developing an atomic arsenal of bombs and intercontinental missiles that potentially could deliver

nuclear warheads anywhere in the United States. U.S. officials also contend that freezing out North Korea could drive Kim's government to seek negotiations.

"We do know they care a lot about their international reputation," said Mark Tokola, a former No. 2 at the U.S. Embassy in South Korea.

Trump's team has chalked up some successes in narrowing the North's diplomatic reach. Mexico, Peru, Italy, Spain and Kuwait have expelled North Korean ambassadors from their countries, Haley said Portugal and the Unit-

ed Arab Emirates have suspended diplomatic relations. Others have cut trade and security ties.

But North Korea isn't and won't be completely isolated.

Last month, China, whose once-close relationship with North Korea has been strained by its adoption of tough U.N. sanctions, sent its highest-level envoy to Pyongyang in two years. North Korea also recently welcomed a Russian parliamentary delegation, in a sign of increasing contacts between the former Cold War partners. And the North just hosted the most senior U.N. official

to visit in years: Jeffrey Feltman, the undersecretary-general for political affairs.

Feltman carried no message from Washington, State Department spokesman Heather Nauert said. Yet Feltman's visit, which included an audience with Kim's foreign minister, added to questions about how effectively the U.S. can isolate North Korea.

Feltman left Pyongyang on Saturday after four days of talks with the North Korean Foreign Ministry. "I have to brief the secretary-general first," he said when asked for details of his trip.

MILITARY

Possible US aircraft part falls out of Okinawa sky

Protesters rally after object lands on Ginowan day care facility

By MATTHEW M. BURKE,
HANA KUSUMOTO
AND SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawan protesters took to the streets Thursday night after a part that may have come from a U.S. military aircraft fell from the sky and landed on the roof of a day care facility in Ginowan, Japan.

About 100 protesters from various civic groups staged a rally in front of the Marine Corps' Camp Foster, which serves as headquarters for the U.S. military on Okinawa. "Don't fly U.S. military helicopters!" they chanted, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK.

The demonstrators were responding to reports that a plastic cylindrical aircraft part measuring 9.5 centimeters long, 7.5 centimeters in diameter and weighing less than half a pound landed on the day care's roof shortly before the incident was reported to police at approximately 10:20 a.m. Thursday, a Ginowan police spokesman said.

The day care — which is about

1,000 feet from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's fence line — was in session at the time, but there were no injuries and no damage to the building, the spokesman said.

It is believed that the part came from an American military aircraft because it says "U.S." on it along with other English phrases like "remove" and "use to reset," according to police and media reports.

"We take this report very seriously and are still actively investigating this incident, working closely with local authorities," Marine 1st Lt. Karoline Foote, a spokeswoman from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, said Friday in an email to Stars and Stripes. "We care deeply about the safety of our friends and neighbors in the communities around which we live and operate."

Officials from the Okinawa Defense Bureau, the local arm of Japan's Ministry of Defense, declined to comment Friday because they were still awaiting confirmation from their U.S. counterparts, a spokesman said.

Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga has called for a thorough investigation and for Japanese govern-

ment officials to strongly urge the U.S. military to stop flying the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter, which he believes was involved in the incident.

"Even though there has not been reports of injuries, one wrong move could have led to a serious accident that could have affected people's lives," he wrote Friday in a letter addressed to Foreign Ministry and Okinawa Defense Bureau officials.

The prefecture "strongly urges the U.S. military to halt the flight of aircraft such as CH-53Es until the facts involved are made clear," he added.

Meanwhile, on Dec. 3, personnel at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo discovered that a part was missing from an aerial flare that had been affixed to a C-130J Super Hercules cargo plane, 374th Airlift Wing officials said in a statement Friday.

The aircraft had departed Yokota on the morning of Dec. 1 and made stops at Misawa Air Base, Japan, and Osan Air Base, South Korea, before returning to Yokota the next evening.

"It is unknown when or where the piece went missing, and the C-130J's flight path was mostly



Courtesy of NHK

This image from a report by Japanese broadcaster NHK shows an object that allegedly fell onto the roof of a day care facility on Okinawa.

‘Even though there has not been reports of injuries, one wrong move could have led to a serious accident.’

Takeshi Onaga
Okinawa governor

over the ocean," officials said.

Airfield sweeps at Yokota, Misawa and Osan did not find the missing part, which is about 12 to 13 inches long and weighs just under a third of a pound, officials said.

The part contains hazardous material and shouldn't be picked up or touched, although it poses no risk if it isn't disturbed.

"Aerial flares are inspected before they are affixed to aircraft and then again prior to and

following every flight," the statement said. "Any abnormalities are addressed immediately."

Tokyo Shimbun — a Japanese newspaper — reported that Tokyo and six other Japanese cities and towns have complained about the incident. Local governments also complained about missing parts from Yokota aircraft in June and July, the report said.

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California guardsmen train with French forces

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

California National Guardsmen with the 40th Infantry Division, nicknamed the "Sunshine Division," are assisting France's Rapid Reaction Corps to train in crisis response techniques in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

About 30 guardsmen, acting as a subordinate unit of a NATO Joint Task Force, are working with the French unit during the two-week Citadel Bonus mission, which began Dec. 4.

During this time, the U.S. soldiers have been helping with planning and guidance as the French soldiers train to secure and stabilize a place called "Arnlund."

"NATO is in the fictitious country of Arnlund, utilizing a Joint Task Force construct, in order to expel opposition forces from part of the country, restore order and then conduct stability operations," said Col. Michael Leeney, chief of staff of the 40th Infantry Division.

The troubled country faces several threats, including an enemy occupation and chemical attacks.

"My position is chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear. I



ANADURY DUTYON/Courtesy of the French Rapid Reaction Corps

California National Guardsmen with the 40th Infantry Division stand beside French Rapid Reaction Corps soldiers during the opening ceremony of the Citadel Bonus mission in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

work hand in hand with (French) CBRN representatives." Master Sgt. Fernando Ravega said. "We are working together to decide

courses of action we would take to either neutralize chemicals or cordon off the area to ensure the security of allied forces from a

chemical attack."

Their mission in Arnlund, which is constantly changing, aims to simulate the real-world unpredictability of an unstable nation. The soldiers are working around the clock, gathering information for their French counterparts as the mission evolves, Ravega said.

This is one of several European exercises in which the National Guardsman are participating before their deployment to Afghanistan in April as part of NATO's Resolute Support mission. The Californians will focus on training, assisting and advising their Afghan counterparts.

Being attached to a French-led unit in the Citadel Bonus mission is preparing the soldiers to work more closely with NATO allies and gives them a taste of what to expect on their coming deployment, Ravega said.

Once Citadel Bonus is over, the soldiers will continue working with the French during the follow-on Citadel Gilbert mission in eastern France, where they will serve as the division headquarters for the exercise.

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EUROPE

DODEA students tackle famine during STEM camp

By DAN STOUTAMIRE
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — At this year's weeklong STEMposium science, math and engineering camp, students at U.S. military schools in Europe learned the importance of the "F-word."

Famine, that is. Every year, students at the camp focus on learning how to use STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering and math — to solve major global issues. Last year it was plastic pollution in the oceans, and this year it's severe hunger.

"Ultimately, what we're trying to do is teach them there's a process to solve complex problems," Wiesbaden science teacher and camp adviser Frank Pendzich said. "We call it the engineering and design process, but it applies to almost everything they'll have to deal with in their lives, and if they can apply a process to systematically solve any problem, they're more apt to find a solution."

Representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development spoke to the students early in the week and told them "famine" is something of a dirty word in aid circles, and they prefer to call it the F-word, or a "stress on available food," Pendzich said.

More than 100 students from



DAN STOUTAMIRE/Stars and Stripes

Students assemble a machine out of limited materials at DODEA-Europe's STEMposium, a weeklong science and math camp, on Thursday.

Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe schools attended the camp, where they were divided into 18 teams. Throughout the week, teams competed against one another in various events to

showcase what they had built.

At an open house Thursday, parents got a chance to see what their children — who stayed overnight at the camp — had been up to all week.

"It looks like it's been amazing, from looking at the pictures on Facebook. They were totally engaged, smiling, and I barely got any texts so I figured she was busy," said Michelle Vining, whose

daughter, Laura, is a freshman at Kaiserslautern High School. "I hope she sees all the different opportunities that are out there in science and engineering."

Students learned about some of the causes of famine, including war, climate change and economic catastrophe. They also got to eat bugs, which in times of famine can be a source of valuable protein.

Aidan Mulrooney, also a freshman from Kaiserslautern, wasn't fazed. "It was pretty tasteless," he said.

Mulrooney and his fellow students headed home Friday. It was their only chance to attend a STEMposium — demand is high, and faculty say they like to make sure as many students as possible can attend at some point in their high school careers.

However, Pendzich said a lot of them are deeply affected by their week in Wiesbaden.

"Many of the students, they tell us straight up that this has changed their lives, perhaps given them a different direction to pursue," he said. "We hope it will encourage them to take some of the more difficult classes in school and realize that if they focus on those, they can become someone who goes out and saves the world."

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Uncertainty looms as Iraq looks at post-ISIS future

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — A day after Iraq declared victory over Islamic State, a sense of gloom about the country's future hung over a security summit in Bahrain as officials worried that age-old sectarian rifts could make the progress short-lived.

Toby Dodge, a British expert on Iraq, was hopeful Sunday when he walked into a closed-door panel talk at the swanky Ritz Carlton hotel that included an Iraqi parliamentarian and a Kurdish regional government official. But Dodge walked out of the meeting "pessimistic."

"It springs from a sense of familiarity," said Dodge, a onetime adviser to Gen. David Petraeus in Iraq.

After the U.S. surge in Iraq in 2007-08, much of the country was stabilized. Shiite militias were quelled, al-Qaida in Iraq was pushed out, and the U.S. eventually began drawing down. But the Iraqi government under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki failed to build on the gains, with power struggles happening among Shiite and Sunni government factions. Meanwhile, Iraq's military grew more fractured, its weakness exposed when ISIS fighters seized a third of Iraq.

After declaring victory Saturday, Iraqi President Haider al-Abadi called for national unity. But questions persist about the Iraqi government's ability to deliver services and to rise above

the sectarian divisions uncorrupted in the aftermath of the 2003 U.S. invasion.

"The military victory may well be squandered," Dodge said.

On Saturday, Petraeus, a speaker at the conference, shared those concerns.

"The battle after the battle in Iraq ... may well prove more challenging than the defeat of ISIS," Petraeus said.

During the Bahrain conference, which had representatives from about 40 nations, officials deliberated on numerous security issues, including rivalries with Iran, the war in Syria and the potential effects on the Arab world of President Donald Trump's announcement to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

While the annual talks, organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, normally attract senior administration officials, none was present during three days of meetings.

On the military side, U.S. Central Command chief Gen. Joseph Votel attended but did not speak during public forums. He did meet with Pakistan's top general in a closed-door discussion. The U.S. has called on Islamabad to get more aggressive in targeting militant groups.

In Iraq, Baghdad also must find a way to navigate a fragile relationship with the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government, which has grown more tenuous in the wake of Kurdistan's referendum for independence.

Iraq will also have to figure out



KARIM KADHIM/AP

People celebrate Sunday as they wave national flags in Tahrir Square, Baghdad, after Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi formally announced victory over ISIS forces in an address Saturday evening.

US-led coalition lauds Iraq for defeating ISIS

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The top U.S.-led coalition commander is congratulating Iraq for defeating Islamic State.

In a statement released by the coalition Sunday, U.S. Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II pledged that coalition forces would continue to support Iraq.

Funk said "much work remains, and we will continue to work by with and through our Iraqi partners to ensure the enduring defeat of Daesh and

prevent its ability to threaten civilization, regionally and globally." Daesh is an Arabic acronym for ISIS.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory in the more than three-year fight against ISIS in a national address aired on Iraqi state television Saturday evening.

Iraqi forces retook the last ISIS strongholds in Iraq's western deserts earlier Saturday and secured the country's border with Syria.

a way to establish control of various militia groups that helped in ISIS' defeat. Among them are

well-organized Shiite militias that also have political sway.

A more decentralized gov-

erning approach, with Baghdad pushing more autonomy down to the provincial level, could improve matters, Dodge said.

After ISIS' defeat in Iraq and the fall of its de facto capital in Raqqa, Syria, there is a "sense of military achievement," said Emile Hokayem, a Middle East analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

But Iran's larger profile in both Syria and Iraq ensures it will be a major power broker going forward. Russia's intervention in Syria, where it stabilized longtime ally Bashar Assad, also means Moscow is better positioned in the region than it was a few years ago.

"Both have had a return on their investment that was larger than expected," said Hokayem, adding the two countries have been "strategic winners" in the region.

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Gitmo prosecutor charges 3 in post-9/11 Southeast Asia terrorism

By CAROL ROSENBERG
Miami Herald

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — The U.S. war court prosecutor has issued new charges against the suspected leader of an al-Qaida affiliate in Southeast Asia, blaming him for the 2002 Bali nightclub bombing and adding two Malaysian captives to the proposed case as suspected co-conspirators.

A copy of the noncapital charge sheet, obtained Saturday by the Miami Herald, accuses Indonesian Riduwan bin Isomuddin, known as Hambali, of sending fighters with his Islamic extremist group Jemaah Islamiyah to Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to meet with Osama bin Laden and to carry out suicide bombings.

The would-be suicide bombers were Bashir Lal, known as Lillie, and Mohd Farik Bin Amin, known as Zubair, two Malaysian prisoners at Guantanamo cast as Hambali acolytes. Together, the three are accused of murder, terrorism, attacking civilians and civilian objects, attempted murder, intentionally causing serious bodily injury and destruction of property

as a war crime.

Pentagon officials provided no explanation for the development. In June, the war court prosecutor charged Hambali, blaming him for the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings and the 2003 attack on the JW Marriott hotel in Jakarta that between them killed more than 200 people. But Army Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, the chief prosecutor, never moved forward on them.

The new charges still accuse Hambali of a role in the 2002 simultaneous Oct. 12, 2002, bombings in the Indonesian island tourist destination of Bali — in a pub, near a dance club and the U.S. Consulate — that killed 202 people. Australia sustained the largest number of casualties — 88 dead — followed by Indonesia with 38. Seven Americans also were killed.

The new charges also accuse Hambali and the two Malaysians of conspiring in the Jakarta bombing of the Marriott, which killed 11 people.

Both attacks, according to the charges, were "calculated to influence and affect the conduct of the United States government and its population by intimidation and coercion," perhaps a basis for

prosecuting the case at the war crimes tribunals.

All three of the men charged in the Southeast Asia conspiracy case arrived at Guantanamo on Sept. 4, 2006, as so-called high-value captives. None has been charged with a crime. President Barack Obama's review boards classified all three men as indefinite detainees in the Law of War, or "forever prisoners" considered too dangerous to release.

The next step in the proposed case will be for the prosecutor to send the charges to a senior Pentagon official, Convening Authority Harvey Rishikoff, to decide whether to go forward with the case. The prosecutor never did that with an earlier, non-capital case that targeted Hambali alone on June 20. The form Rishikoff would use allows him to decide whether to make it a death penalty prosecution. For now, that box is not checked in the copy obtained by the Herald.

Ten of Guantanamo's 41 captives have had war crimes cases, two on guilty pleas to cooperate with the prosecutors. There is no sign, yet, that either of the captives has turned government witness in the pro-

posed Hambali prosecution.

It alleges a broad war crimes conspiracy stretching from January 1993 through August 2003, when all three men were captured in Thailand in a joint U.S.-Thai operation and were sent to the CIA offshore secret prison network known as the black sites.

The timing is intriguing. At the war court last week, defense lawyers were seeking dismissal of charges against one of the suspected 9/11 conspirators on grounds the U.S. war on terrorism did not begin until nearly after a month after 9/11, with the invasion of Afghanistan.

Soon after the 9/11 attacks, Hambali's charge sheet alleges, he chose the two Malaysians to be part of a suicide squad in the U.S., perhaps in California. By then, the war court prosecutor alleges, Hambali already had begun sending jihadi followers to al-Qaida in Afghanistan to learn how to make bombs.

Zubair and Lillie swore a post-9/11 oath of allegiance to bin Laden and agreed to take part in a four-man suicide mission. The charges don't spell out their intended target.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Limits of force

Liberated Philippine city lies in ruins, and its people are angry

By EMILY RAUHALA
The Washington Post

MARAWI, Philippines — More than six months after Filipino and foreign fighters claiming allegiance to Islamic State stormed this lake-side city, setting off a monthslong war with U.S.-backed Philippine troops, liberated Marawi lies in ruins and its people are seething.

The heart of the city has been bombed and burned beyond recognition, its domed mosques pierced by mortar fire. Homes stand roofless, blackened. There are armored vehicles on the streets.

Some 200,000 residents are still scattered across the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, living with weary relatives or in displacement camps thick with mud and worry.

Those who have been allowed to return found their homes searched and looted — safes open, jewelry snatched, appliances gone.

Many are angry at the men who seized their city in a failed bid to establish a caliphate, taking hostages and targeting civilians. They are angry, too, at the forces that fought those men — namely, the Philippine army and its backer, the United States.

Beyond earshot of officials and soldiers, people wonder why the army was so quick to pummel Muslim-majority Marawi. They also are suspicious of the role played by U.S. Special Forces.

With ISIS fighters losing ground in Iraq and Syria, men and money may shift to Southeast Asia, experts have said. They will find in the southern Philippines an angry and vulnerable population, institutions racked by war and a government, led by President Rodrigo Duterte, that sees shooting as a way to solve social problems.

In other words: prime recruiting grounds. In that sense, what happened in Marawi is not the success that Duterte claims but a lesson in the limits of fighting extremism with force alone.

"Armed operations will never erase or exterminate the causes and roots of terror," said Samira Ali Gutoc-Tomawis, a local official who quit her job over Duterte's handling of the conflict. "You can't kill an idea."

Roots of conflict

The roots of the Marawi conflict run far and deep, stretching from the southern Philippines across Southeast Asia to the Middle East. It's a local conflict swept up in the globalization of extremism.

For Minnhati Madrais, of Bekasi, Indonesia, Marawi started as a love story and ended in a war. Madrais left Indonesia as a young woman to study at Cairo's Al-Azhar University. There, she met Omarkhayam Maute, who is Maranano, a predominantly Muslim group from the area around Marawi.

"He was the first man who ever liked me," she said.

They married in Egypt, lived and worked in Indonesia, then moved to Mindanao in 2011.



Left: Filipino soldiers patrol a building in Marawi with pro-Islamic State graffiti on a wall. **Right:** Minnhati Madrais, the Indonesian-born wife of slain insurgent leader Omarkhayam Maute, is seen at a police station in Iligan with one of the couple's six children.

Maute and his brother, Abdullah, came from a prosperous clan with ties to the leadership of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, an insurgent group that has fought for decades for autonomy for Muslim groups on Mindanao.

In recent years, the Moro Front has been engaged in fitful peace negotiations with the government. Some fighters have split off, fed up with the process, or been attracted to the ideology, ferocity and self-styled purity of foreign terrorist groups — among them ISIS.

A formidable group

It is not clear when or where the Mautes clan radicalized. But the fact that they could not wage war for the Moro Front may have heightened the appeal of ISIS, said Sidney Jones, director of the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, or IPAC, based in Jakarta, Indonesia, and an expert on terrorism in Southeast Asia.

In 2013, Omarkhayam Maute decamped to a family property outside Marawi, Madrais said. She stayed in the city, bringing the children to visit when he called. He never came to them. "Checkpoints were too dangerous," she said.

At some point, the brothers started working with other groups, including a band of men loyal to one of the world's most-wanted militants, Isnilon Hapilon, who pledged loyalty to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2014.

Experts are still trying to understand the force they assembled, particularly the precise nature of their links to ISIS, said Shaash Jayakumar, who heads the Center for Excellence in National Security at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

Whatever its ties, the Hapilon and Maute group was formidable. "This was a significant force, with significant preparation. It hit everyone by surprise," Jayakumar said.

In late May, Philippine troops stormed a compound in Marawi, expecting to make some arrests. Instead, they set off fighting that lasted more than 150 days.

After a prolonged gunbattle, the

Philippine army slowly pushed the militants toward the city's center, where they dug in.

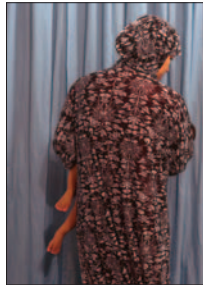
"It was heavy urban fighting," said Col. Romeo Branner, a U.S.-trained soldier who is now the deputy commander of a Marawi task force.

The Maute brothers were well-armed and networked.

Omarkhayam Maute, a speaker of Indonesian, Arabic and English, as well as local languages, was able to communicate with foreign fighters and supporters who followed via social media.

While the battle dragged on, his wife and their six children — aged 12, 10, 7, 6, 2 and 10 months — were in a safe house in nearby Iligan. It was there, in late September, that Madrais read on Facebook that he was dead.

"I prayed, then cry, cry, cry, cry, and then I vomited," she said.



PHOTOS BY MANHAN REYES MORALES/The Washington Post

When police arrested her and searched the house, they found syringes, five phones, SIM cards, detonating cords and two blasting caps typically used to make improvised explosive devices, according to the local police chief and an affidavit reviewed by The Washington Post.

Madrais, who was being held in a conference room at a police station with her children, professed no knowledge of what was in the house. Nor did she express remorse. "He was good, and I miss him very much," she said.

Six months later

More than six months after the fighting started and more than two months after Duterte declared Marawi liberated, it still looks and feels like a war zone, with the destruction centered in the city's

heart, along the shore of Lake Lanao and radiating outward.

The center is a no-go zone controlled by soldiers. Militants had turned the houses that are still standing into snipers' nests, where furniture has been trashed and pro-ISIS graffiti is still on the walls. It may be years before the main battleground is habitable. At the periphery, where people have been allowed to move back and schools are reopening, families are returning to wrecked and emptied homes.

There is certainly anger at the Maute brothers and their fighters. Their violence against civilians, including the targeting of Christians, earned them little goodwill.

"They are not Muslims because Muslims don't kill," said Maymona Akman Macabago, a Marawi resident now living in a displacement camp.

Among the displaced, a more proximate source of pain is how Manila responded — the declaration of martial law, protracted bombing and a heavy military presence.

Gutoc-Tomawis, the former official, quit her job in the early days of the conflict after Duterte appeared to encourage soldiers fighting in Marawi to commit rape. She, like many here, believes Duterte's immediate declaration of martial law gave the military license to act with impunity.

Among the displaced, the presence of U.S. planes has fueled rumors about what role the United States played. That could be used to stoke anger, experts said.

"I don't know to what extent the decision to take airstrikes was the Philippines' or the United States', but it's going to be a decision that has implications for many years to come," said Jones, IPAC's director.

STARS AND STRIPES

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NATION

Calif. governor: Fire devastation the 'new normal'

BY RUBEN VIVES,
MELISSA ETEHAD
AND JACLYN COSGROVE
Los Angeles Times

VENTURA, Calif. — California Gov. Jerry Brown surveyed the devastation Saturday in Ventura — the area hardest hit by firestorms that have displaced nearly 90,000 people in Southern California — calling it “the new normal.”

The visit came four days after Brown declared a state of emergency in response to the wildfires. In all, blazes from Ojai to Oceanside have destroyed more than 790 structures and burned 175,000 acres.

During a news conference at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, Brown said climate change may exacerbate the weather conditions that caused the wildfires to explode. He expressed sympathy for residents who had lost their homes and animals, saying the fires were horrific and a “terrible tragedy for so many people.”

“This could be something that happens every year or every few

years,” he said. “We’re about to have a firefighting Christmas.”

By Saturday evening, officials said, the Thomas fire had crossed into Santa Barbara County. Residents in coastal communities, including Carpinteria, were told to be prepared to leave if necessary. Still, the approximately 8,500 firefighters battling the six wildfires were making progress.

As Santa Ana winds finally died down Friday, crews began containment of some of the biggest fires. But red flag warnings remained in effect, and forecasters said the Santa Anas were expected to return.

Firefighters had a successful day battling flames on the southern edge of the Thomas fire — working toward the coast as well as parts of Ojai — thanks to wind conditions and crews’ ability to improve the fire lines they had established, according to Bill Murphy, a Cal Fire spokesman.

By Saturday afternoon, the Thomas fire had burned 148,000 acres. Firefighting efforts were hampered overnight Friday by wind and topography, officials said, but the blaze was 15 percent contained. Evacuations were lifted for most of the city of Ventura and for Santa Paula.

The cause of the fire, which started Monday east of Highway 150 near Thomas Aquinas Col-



PHOTOS BY NOAH BERGER/AP

Firefighters light a backfire while trying to keep a wildfire from jumping Santa Ana Road near Ventura, Calif., on Saturday.

lege, is under investigation.

Firefighters continued to encounter difficulty on the east side of the blaze, where helicopter crews dropped water above the city of Fillmore. But they made progress near Highway 33 and the 101 Freeway, on the west side of the blaze.

“This is a complex fire,” said Rich Macklin, a spokesman for the Ventura County Fire Department. “There are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of men and women with packs on their backs, squirting the hills, putting the wet stuff on the red stuff.”

So far, efforts to fight the Thomas fire have cost \$17 million, according to the Ventura County Fire Department.



A helicopter carries water to fight the wildfire near Santa Ana Road on Saturday.

Winter storm leaves South, marches into Northeast

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A pre-winter storm that roared through the Deep South and coated half of North Carolina and portions of Virginia in snow pushed northward Saturday, leaving motorists to brave potentially icy roads and utility crews trying to restore heat and light to thousands.

Forecasters were warning that the slush created during daylight would turn to ice from temperatures dropping below freezing, creating black ice on roads, bridges and other elevated surfaces.

“That catches people more off guard than when you see snow,” said National Weather Service meteorologist Mike Monopenny, of the Raleigh, N.C., office.

Maine and New Hampshire were also digging out of the first significant snowfall of the season, with much of the two states under 4 to 8 inches of snow.

The National Weather Service said Saturday’s snowfall topped out at 8 inches in Carrabassett Valley in Franklin County,



MIKE STEWART/AP

People walk down a snow-covered road after a heavy snow Saturday in Kennesaw, Ga.

Maine. Most areas of Maine and New Hampshire where snowfall was recorded were in the range of 3 to 6 inches.

Before Friday, the forecast for

North Carolina called for little more than an inch of snow for the central counties with more expected for the higher elevations. The frigid temperatures behind

a cold front combined with moisture off the Gulf of Mexico to bring the unusual wintry weather to parts of the South.

By Saturday, Burnsville had reported 14½ inches of snow. The Hendersonville area had 12 inches and Asheville recorded 8 inches of snow. Across the South, preliminary reports to the National Weather Service showed up to 10 inches of snowfall in northwest Georgia, with 7 inches of accumulation in parts of metro Atlanta. Another 10 inches of snow was reported in Anniston, Ala., while up to 7 inches were reported in Mississippi. Rare flurries were even reported in New Orleans.

“It’s very, very abnormal and rare that we would get totals like that this time of year,” said Sid King, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in the Atlanta area. “It’s really not even winter yet. I would not be surprised if we broke a lot of records.”

Temperatures forecast for Sunday weren’t favorable for melting the snow, according to forecast-

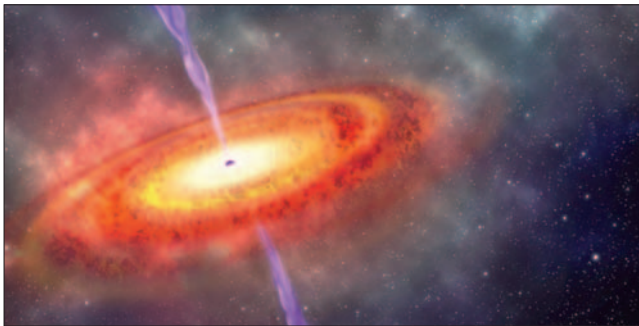
ers. Highs across much of North Carolina were not expected to get out of the 30s on Sunday, and after a brief warming up on Monday, a second round of cold air was likely to stall the melting.

At the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which sees more passengers annually than any other airport in the world, spokesman Reese McCranie said more than 400 flights were canceled Saturday. That’s after nearly 1,200 cancellations Friday.

More than 334,000 homes and businesses were still without electricity Saturday afternoon in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. About 235,000 of those still in the dark were in Georgia.

In Atlanta, a fallen power line was blamed for electrocuting a man late Friday. Bystanders tried to warn the man before he walked into the dangling live wire, Atlanta police Sgt. John Chafee said Saturday. He said it was unclear if the wire was downed because of the icy weather.

NATION



ROBIN DIENEL/Courtesy of the Carnegie Institution for Science

An artist's conception shows the most distant supermassive black hole ever discovered.

Scientists find oldest known black hole, and it's a monster

By SARAH KAPLAN
The Washington Post

Eduardo Banados, an astronomer at the Carnegie Observatories in California, had three nights to spot something that might not even exist: a supermassive black hole close to the beginning of time.

At the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile, perched high atop a mountain in the world's driest desert, he scanned for the signature of a massive, invisible sinkhole in the sky slurping up a whirlpool of brilliant, hot matter.

Just before sunrise on the third night, he found it. Way out at the very edge of the observable universe there loomed a black hole 800 million times more massive than the sun. The signal had traveled more than 13 billion light-years across time and space to reach Banados' telescope.

In a paper published in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday, Banados and his colleagues reported that their new find is the oldest and most distant black hole ever discovered.

The object's size is stunning, Banados said, because it existed just 690 million years after the Big

Bang, when the universe was just 5 percent of its current age and still emerging from an enigmatic era known as "the Dark Ages."

That such a large black hole can exist so early in time will shape models of how black holes form. And it will offer insight into the universe's hard-to-study early years.

"If the universe was a 50-year-old person, now we have a photograph of that person as a toddler ... when they were 2 1/2," Banados said.

The Dark Ages began just a few hundred thousand years after the Big Bang, once the hot particle slurry that constituted the early universe condensed into atoms. The universe was getting bigger and colder in that period, filling up with a featureless fog of hydrogen gas. There were no galaxies, stars or supernovas (which appear when stars explode) — nothing that gave off light. The only form of radiation was a very weak hydrogen glow.

That state of affairs lasted for hundreds of millions of years. Yet sometime during that inscrutable period, the universe as we know

it emerged. Gravity pulled hydrogen into the first gas clouds, from which the first stars were born. The radiation from the newly formed objects broke hydrogen atoms apart into their constituent particles — protons and electrons — finally dispelling the chilly fog. This process, called "reionization" because previously neutral hydrogen atoms became ions with an electric charge, was the last major transition in the universe's history. Understanding the reionization epoch, Banados said, is one of the "frontiers of astrophysics."

The absence of light sources during the Dark Ages makes it difficult to probe the period with telescopes. The hydrogen fog further complicates matters. Banados said it is as though someone went through the universe's childhood photo album and ripped out all the pictures of their most formative years.

But studying the behavior of the universe's very first quasars — luminous whirlpools of fast-moving, ultrahot particles surrounding supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies — could shed some light on this inscrutable era.

2 states look to fentanyl as latest execution drug

By WILLIAM WAN
AND MARK BERMAN
The Washington Post

The synthetic painkiller fentanyl has been the driving force behind the nation's opioid epidemic, killing tens of thousands of Americans last year in overdoses. Now, two states want to use the drug's powerful properties for a new purpose: to execute prisoners on death row.

As Nevada and Nebraska push for the country's first fentanyl-assisted executions, doctors and death penalty opponents are fighting those plans. They have warned that such an untested use of fentanyl could lead to painful, botched executions, comparing the use of it and other new drugs proposed for lethal injection to human experimentation.

States are increasingly pressed for ways to carry out the death penalty because of problems obtaining the drugs they long have used, primarily because pharmaceutical companies are refusing to supply their drugs for executions.

The situation has led states such as North Carolina and Oklahoma to turn to novel drug combinations for executions. Mississippi legalized nitrogen gas last spring as a backup method — something no state or country has tried. Officials have yet to say whether it would be delivered in a gas chamber or through a gas mask.

Other states have passed laws authorizing a return to older methods, such as the firing squad and the electric chair.

"We're in a new era," said Deborah Denno, a law professor at Fordham University. "States have now gone through all the drugs closest to the original ones for lethal injection. And the more they experi-

ment, the more they're forced to use new drugs that we know less about in terms of how they might work in an execution."

Supporters of capital punishment blame critics for the crisis, which comes amid a sharp decline in the number of executions and decreasing public support for the death penalty.

As of late November, 23 inmates had been put to death in 2017 — fewer than in all but one year since 1991. Nineteen states no longer have capital punishment, with a third of those banning it in the past decade.

"Death penalty opponents were really concerned about inmates' pain, they would help reopen the supply," said Kent Scheidegger, of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, which advocates the rights of crime victims. Opponents "caused the problem we're in now by pushing the pharmaceutical industry to cut off the supply to these drugs. That's why states are turning to less-than-optimal choices."

Prison officials in Nevada and Nebraska have declined to answer questions about why they chose to use fentanyl in their next executions, which could take place in early 2018. Many states shroud their procedures in secrecy to try to minimize legal challenges.

But fentanyl offers several advantages. The obvious one is potency. The synthetic drug is 50 times more powerful than heroin and up to 100 times more powerful than morphine.

Another plus with fentanyl: It is easy to obtain. Although the drug has rocketed into the news because of the opioid crisis, doctors frequently use it to anesthetize patients for major surgery or to treat severe pain in patients with advanced cancer.



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

A prescription is filled at Pucci's Pharmacy in Sacramento, Calif.

Drug companies sue to block Calif. drug price law

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Pharmaceutical companies on Friday sued to block a new California law that would require them to give advance notice before big price increases.

The law was approved this year in response to consumer outrage over a rise in drug spending and high costs for some prescription treatments, including new hepatitis C medications and EpiPens to control allergic reactions.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, a trade group for drugmakers, said in its lawsuit that California's law illegally tries to dictate national health policy. Because the law is tied to a national measure of drug prices, PhRMA argues that California's advance

notification requirement could restrict drugmakers' ability to raise prices in other states.

The group also argued the law is constitutionally vague and violates the First Amendment by forcing drug companies to justify price increases.

The law, set to take effect Jan. 1, passed over fierce objections from PhRMA and California's thriving medical research industry. It requires 60 days' notice to raise national wholesale prices above a certain threshold.

"The law creates bureaucracy, thwarts private market competition and ignores the role of insurers, pharmacy benefit managers and hospitals in what patients pay for their medicines," James Stansel, PhRMA's executive vice president and chief counsel, said in a statement Friday.

The law does not reflect the actual costs

paid by major purchasers including insurers and the government, which negotiate prices and receive discounts, drug companies said. They also warn that advance notice will lead pharmacies and other drug purchasers to stockpile, creating shortages of medications.

Sen. Ed Hernandez, a Democrat from West Covina who wrote the bill, said when it passed the Legislature that it would "set national health care policy" — a statement PhRMA uses as evidence the bill is unconstitutional.

"California's Legislature sent a crystal-clear message that it is time for a change," said Charles Bacchi, president and CEO of the California Association of Health Plans, which supported the drug pricing law. "This action by the pharmaceutical doesn't represent what California's voters and elected representatives think."

NATION

Most Ala. GOP leaders say they'll vote for Moore

By KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Most Republican leaders in Alabama say they plan to vote for Roy Moore on Tuesday despite sexual misconduct allegations against the former judge that have prompted others around the country to say he never should be allowed to join the U.S. Senate.

"I have stated both publicly and privately over the last month that unless these allegations were proven to be true I would continue to plan to vote for the Republican nominee, Judge Roy Moore," Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill wrote in a text message to The Associated Press. "I have already cast my absentee ballot and I voted for Judge Moore."

The accusations against Moore have left many GOP voters and leaders in a quandary. Voters face the decision of whether to vote for Moore, accused of sexual misconduct with teenagers decades ago when he was a county prosecutor,

or sending Democrat Doug Jones to Washington, which would narrow the GOP's already precarious majority in the Senate.

They also could write in a name on their ballots or simply stay home. Meanwhile, most GOP politicians in the state must run for re-election next year — where they will face Moore's enthusiastic voting base at the polls.

The AP tried to find out how Republican leaders from Alabama plan to vote. Most officeholders or their staffs responded, while others have publicly stated their plans during public appearances or to other media outlets.

However, several officeholders did not respond to calls, emails or texts from the AP. They include U.S. Reps. Martha Roby, Mike Rogers and Gary Palmer, as well as state Treasurer Young Boozier and state House Speaker Mac McCutcheon.

State officeholders who said they intended to vote for Moore often cited the need to keep the

seat in Republican hands.

In addition to Merrill, others who plan to vote for Moore include Gov. Kay Ivey, Attorney General Steve Marshall, state Auditor Jim Zeigler, Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan, state Senate President Pro Tempore Del Marsh and Public Service Commissioner Twinkle Andress Canavanah, who previously led the state GOP. Also voting for Moore are current state party head Terry Lathan and U.S. Reps. Mo Brooks, of Huntsville, and Robert Aderholt, of Haleyville.

The state's most influential politician, Republican U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, has said he wrote in a prominent Republican on his absentee ballot.

"I wrote in a distinguished Republican. I did not vote for Judge Moore, but I voted Republican," Shelby said. His decision has played prominently in Jones ads pointing out Republicans who are not voting for their party's nominee.



BYRON ANDERSON/AP

Former Alabama Chief Justice and U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore speaks at a Nov. 30 campaign rally. Voters go to the polls Tuesday.

CNN reported last month that U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne said he will vote Republican and that he does not cast write-in votes. In a statement to the AP, Byrne said it is up to voters to decide.

"Some serious allegations have been made and Judge Moore has vehemently denied them. Frankly, I don't think the people of Alabama want me, any national politician, or the national news media telling them what to think or how to vote," Byrne said in the statement. "The decision is ultimately up to the people of Alabama to evaluate the information they have before them and make an informed decision. We must

respect the voters' decision."

Sen. Luther Strange, who lost to Moore in the Republican primary, did not respond to a request for comment from the AP, but told The Washington Post recently the election is up to voters.

"I'm staying out of it now. I think everybody knows how I feel about Judge Moore. We made our case and the voters made a different decision," Strange told the newspaper in a video on its website.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who resigned from the Senate to join the Trump administration, declined to say how he would vote. Moore and Jones are competing for his old job.

In Alabama, Republican Party facing no good outcomes

By DAN BALZ
The Washington Post

Every competitive special election draws outsized attention, but few deserve it more than Tuesday's Senate contest in Alabama. No matter the outcome, the results will reverberate loudly across the country — and nowhere more than inside the Republican Party.

ANALYSIS The contest between Republican Roy Moore and Democrat Doug Jones is a morality play with significant political consequences. It sweeps in everything that is current — President Donald Trump's standing, the fractured Republican Party, the Democrats' hopes for 2018, and above all, the issue of whether, at a time of changing attitudes, political allegations outweighs credible claims of sexual misconduct.

Unlike in many such elections, the voting Tuesday will not end the controversy. For Republicans, that's perhaps the most worrisome aspect. Tuesday's results will be picked at for meaning beyond what any single election can produce, but there will be plenty in what happens without picking at it.

For Republicans, there likely can be no truly good outcome. If Moore wins, the party will have preserved the seat but will be saddled with a new senator under a cloud of allegations, including assaulting a teenager many years ago as well as a pattern of pursuing teenagers half his age when he was in his 30s. If he wins and is sworn in, he probably will face an ethics investigation that will keep the controversy alive until his fate is resolved and perhaps much longer than that. For the Republicans, it's a hot mess.

If Moore loses, the GOP would be spared his presence in the Senate. But the result will have inflamed the anti-establishment forces led by former White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon, deepening antagonisms that continue to roll the party. A Jones victory also would tarnish the

president, who has endorsed Moore enthusiastically and campaigned near the Alabama border Friday night in a display of that support. Additionally, a Jones victory would put the Republican majority at greater risk in 2018.

As a public figure, Moore has long been a renegade. He is a throwback to a different era and an embarrassment to many in his state. Even before the women came forward to accuse him of sexual impropriety, he was highly controversial, having twice been removed from the state Supreme Court. He first involved his resistance to an order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the state Supreme Court building; the second was over his order to state judges not to abide by the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that legalized same-sex marriages.

Dedicated following

Still, Moore would be a shoo-in on Tuesday were it not for the allegations of sexual misconduct. Alabama is one of the most Republican states in the nation, and is deeply polarized, red vs. blue and white vs. black. Trump won Alabama by 28 points in 2016. His campaign took flight in August 2015 when he staged a massive rally in Mobile. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, then an Alabama senator, was the first U.S. senator to endorse Trump.

Moore has a following that is unshakable, especially among evangelical Christians. In a recent Washington Post-Schar School poll that showed the overall race neck and neck, 78 percent of evangelical Christian voters in Alabama said they backed Moore's candidacy. Among other white Christians in the state, his support was at 41 percent.

Moore's support among Christian conservatives highlights the degree to which tribal loyalty offsets other factors in voters' political choices. The president cast the choice in starkly partisan and ideological terms when he recently gave Moore a full-throated endorsement. In a tweet, he

said of Moore: "We need his vote on stopping crime, illegal immigration, Border Wall, Military, Pro Life, V.A., Judges 2nd Amendment and more."

The split within the Republican coalition is highlighted by the divergent paths taken by Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., since Moore was accused of sexual assault and impropriety.

Trump made a bad bet earlier when he was persuaded to endorse Sen. Luther Strange in the GOP primary. Now he is all in with Moore. Having been accused of sexual misconduct by multiple women during his presidential campaign, Trump has chosen to embrace another Republican facing similar charges. Shortly after his endorsement, the Republican National Committee reversed course and re-entered the race on behalf of Moore after pulling out in the wake of the allegations against him.

McConnell was a more enthusiastic supporter of Strange in the primary, directing money toward the Alabamian's candidacy, but to no avail. Once the women came forward, the majority leader tried without success to force Moore to step aside. His failure once again underscored the limited power the GOP establishment has in these matters.

Unlike Trump, however, he has not moved back toward Moore in these final days. A week ago, he appeared to be softening his opposition to the majority leader. But the RNC voters in Alabama to decide whom to send to the Senate. Asked to explain that, he later told reporters: "There's been no change of heart. I had hoped he would withdraw as a candidate. That obviously is not going to happen." He also made clear that an ethics investigation probably awaits Moore if he wins on Tuesday. Should Moore become a senator, he and McConnell will find it difficult to coexist in the same chamber.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee and its chairman, Sen. Cory Gardner, of Colorado, embraced McConnell's hands-off approach. After the RNC announced its support for the Republican

nominee, Gardner who, like other Republicans, had called on Moore to withdraw, reiterated that the NRSC would continue to stay out of the race.

Much at stake

A Jones victory would give Democrats a boost in the battle for control of the Senate next year, though the path is narrow and starts with the necessity of holding every Democratic seat at stake next year, including the red and purple states Trump won in 2016.

If Democrats were to do that, they would still need to pick up a net of three more seats to gain the majority. While recent events have thrown into question such a pickup, they have two decent possibilities: in Arizona, where Sen. Jeff Flake is stepping down; and in Nevada, where Sen. Dean Heller is in trouble.

The Senate map got scrambled further in the past few days. Democrats got good news when Phil Bredesen, the former Democratic governor of Tennessee, announced that he would run for the seat of retiring Sen. Bob Corker, a Republican. He is one of the few Democrats who might be able to win statewide in a state that has turned increasingly red and conservative.

Meanwhile, the decision by Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., to resign his seat in the face of allegations of sexual misconduct puts a Democratic seat in play next year that his party had not expected. Even the possibility of a Republican seat falling into Democratic hands in Alabama adds to the significance of Tuesday's outcome.

On this final weekend, the race in Alabama symbolizes a Republican Party in turmoil, with Trump and Bannon pitted against McConnell and others in the GOP establishment. Trump has continued to bend the party in his direction. A Moore victory on Tuesday would add to that record of success by the president, but at a potentially sizable cost to the Republican Party.

NATION



PHOTOS BY BILL ESTEP, LEXINGTON (Ky.) HERALD-LEADER/AP

Kaylee Lay, 5, at rear, and her sister, Kinley, 6, get books from the bookmobile that came to their home in rural McCreary County, Ky., on Nov. 21.

Bookmobile delivers joy to readers in rural Kentucky communities

By BILL ESTEP

Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader

WHITLEY CITY, Ky. — Kaylee Lay, who is 5, was so happy to see the bookmobile pull up in front of her house in McCreary County recently that she ran outside with no shoes, then reached up for her mother to carry her over the rough ground.

"She got so excited," said her mother, Katie Lay. "She said, 'The bookmobile's here!'"

That's the kind of enthusiasm that has helped keep the largest fleet of bookmobiles in the nation operating in rural Kentucky, delivering books to people who often can't get to county-seat libraries.

Supporters say bookmobiles play an important role in promoting reading at all ages, but especially among children, helping them do better in school.

"We just think having books in the hands of kids is really, really important, and it sets them up for lifelong learning," said Rhonda Kendziorski, bookmobile and outreach librarian for the McCreary County Public Library.

In the most recent national count in 2014, 75 Kentucky counties had traditional bookmobiles, said Michael Swendrowski, a board member with the Association of Bookmobiles & Outreach Services.

The next closest states were Ohio and California, with just over 50 each, he said.

Several states reported having only a handful of bookmobiles — six in Texas, for instance, three in Kansas and two in Oklahoma.

"Kentucky definitely leads the way in the number of bookmobiles nationwide," Swendrowski said.

One reason so many counties have continued traditional bookmobile programs is that they see a continued need for the service, even in a digital age.

Many rural places in the state do not have good internet service,



Rhonda Kendziorski drives the bookmobile in McCreary County.

and some residents can't afford the service when it is available.

Health problems keep people homebound. Many people don't have a car to get to public library 20 miles away, and there is little public transportation in much of the state. Work schedules don't match library hours.

The county is among the bottom 10 of more than 3,100 nationally in an index of economic measures such as poverty rate and per capita market income, according to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Most land in the county is owned by the federal government, which erodes the local tax base. It's an understatement to say money is tight for local services.

But taxpayers have supported the library, and when the last bookmobile the state provided started showing its age, there was no consideration of joining the list of counties without a bookmobile, said Jay Morrow, director of the McCreary County library.

"I felt the need was still there," Morrow said.

The library bought a 2017 Ford Transit cargo van and had it mod-

ified to carry books at a total cost of \$59,000.

Kendziorski has other duties with the library, but four days a week she travels the county's hilly, winding roads to take the library to residents.

She has regular routes, returning to patrons once every three weeks except in the summer, when the library shortens the rotation to two weeks.

That helps keep kids reading while school is out, countering the "summer slide" in reading skills.

The bookmobile does not stop at every house, but rather where people have requested service. Residents can contact the library to be added to the route.

All told, the route covered 2½ hours, 44 miles and nearly 20 readers.

Morrow thinks bookmobiles will remain a relevant, valuable service in McCreary and many other counties for years to come.

She can foresee adding an internet hotspot to the bookmobile to serve people who don't have or can't afford service.

"We'll evolve," she said.

Officials warn right whales could become extinct

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Officials with the federal government say it's time to consider the possibility that endangered right whales could become extinct unless new steps are taken to protect them.

North Atlantic right whales are among the rarest marine mammals in the world, and they have endured a deadly year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has said there are only about 450 of the whales left and 17 of them have died so far in 2017.

The situation is so dire that American and Canadian regulators need to consider the possibility that the population won't recover without action soon, said John Bullard, the Northeast Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. The high year of mortality is coinciding with a year of poor reproduction, and there are only about 100 breeding female North Atlantic right whales left.

"You do have to use the extinction word, because that's where the trend lines say they are," Bullard said. "That's something we can't let happen."

Bullard and other NOAA officials made the comments during a meeting last week of the regulatory New England Fishery Management Council. Mark Murray-Brown, an Endangered Species Act consultant for NOAA, said right whales have been declining in abundance since 2010, with females hit harder than males.

The U.S. and Canada must work to reduce the human-caused deaths of the whales, Murray-Brown said. Vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear are two frequently cited causes of the whales' deaths.

"The current status of the right whales is a critical situation, and using our available resources to

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has said there are only about 450 of the whales left and 17 of them have died so far in 2017.

recover right whales is of high importance and high urgency," he said.

The animals give birth in temperate southern waters and then head to New England and Canada every spring and summer to feed. All of this year's deaths were off New England and Canada.

Some recent scientific studies have shed some light on why whale deaths have ticked up. One, published in the journal *Nature Scientific Reports*, stated that the whales move around much more than previously thought. Some scientists have posited that whales might be venturing out side of protected areas in search of food, putting themselves in harm's way.

In another study, published last month in the journal *Endangered Species Research*, scientists examined right whale feces and found whales that suffer long entanglements in fishing gear produce hormone levels that indicate high stress. The stress negatively affects their ability to reproduce even when they survive entanglement, scientists said.

A five-year NOAA review of right whales that was released in October said the animals should remain on the endangered list. It also included recommendations to protect the species.

They included developing a long-term plan for monitoring the population trends and habitat use, and studying the impact of commercial fishing on right whales.

Hundreds of Santas take part in NYC's annual SantaCon

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Santa Claus is in New York, in the form of hundreds of people wearing his look-alike costume to bar crawl for the annual SantaCon.

Because of rowdy incidents in past years, the Santas were not allowed to drink on trains bringing them to Manhattan.

That didn't keep them from crowding Penn Station and

streets Saturday on their way to city watering holes.

The rules of SantaCon are simple: Don't mess with kids, cops, bar staff, the charity mission or, simply, the city of New York.

What put a bit of a damper on the event was the first snowfall of the season.

It was expected to leave about 3 inches of snow on the ground, according to the National Weather Service.

NATION

Group makes mission of care packages for troops

By DAVID B. SNOW
The Paducah (Ky.) Sun

PADUCAH, Ky. — When Gayron Ferguson started what is now the Hugs Project of Western Kentucky, it was intended to be a nine-month effort to send monthly care packages to his son and two of his buddies in Iraq.

Ten years later, the project has ballooned to include thousands of military members of all branches serving overseas.

"At the end of nine months, we were going to quit," Ferguson said. "Well, that was 10½ years ago. We now send over 40,000 care packages to over 12,000 different men and women because we found so many that don't have family, don't have any other support."

The Hugs Project is a nationwide, nonprofit organization begun in Oklahoma in 2004 to ensure that every American servicemember gets something to show that they are appreciated.

The local chapter — the Hugs Project of Western Kentucky — is the largest of the 10 chapters in the national organization.

"I fell in love with it because it is 100 percent volunteer," Ferguson said. "We generally have less than 3 percent of the money we take in that is used for expenses because we've got to buy ink and paper for the printer and things like that. But we don't have salaries, we don't have travel expenses — we don't do any of that kind of stuff."

Postage is one of the greater expenses the group faces. While the group mailed more than 100 packages Thursday, more than 50 had to stay behind because they lacked money for the postage.

"It takes \$12.40 just to mail one box," he said. "So you figure 500 boxes, which is what we'll send for Christmas, that's \$6,200, just for the postage. Plus, you figure there's between \$25 and \$35 worth of stuff that is in each box. Some of that has been donated to us, and

some we have to go out and buy."

Each box contains a variety of items, including crackers, candy, hot chocolate mix or chips, along with magazines, toiletries, cards and letters.

The name of the Hugs Project came from co-founder Karen Stark, of Edmond, Okla., who started making cooling wraps that go around the neck. They considered those to be "long-distance hugs" to their servicemembers overseas. The cooling wraps are still included in the spring and summer packages.

Ferguson said that up to 120 volunteers come in to help his group with seasonal packing. The group sends 100 to 120 packages monthly, but more than 500 boxes are sent for Christmas.

Ferguson said the Hugs Project gets most of the servicemembers' names from chaplains and command officers overseas.

"If they see somebody who's not getting any support, they'll get us



David B. Snow/The Paducah (Ky.) Sun

Paul Ziegler loads Christmas packages on Nov. 30 to be sent to servicemembers overseas by the Hugs Project of Western Kentucky.

their information, and we'll make sure they get a box every month until they come home," he said.

"We've got some guys over there who have been there eight, nine tours who have never gotten a letter from home yet — until we find out. And when we find out, we make sure they get a box every single month."

Ferguson talked about a soldier who said he was home from Afghanistan physically but not mentally. He told Ferguson in a letter that when he was having a tough

time, he goes back to the cards and letters that he got from the Hugs Project and re-reads them and that helps him get through a bad day.

"You never know when you're going to make a huge difference in somebody's life," Ferguson said. "That's what it's all about, is just making a positive difference. We have so many guys that don't have any family and don't have anybody that really cares about them. I just couldn't let that pass. I had to do something about it."

Oregon town seeks first microbrewery, offers incentives

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — An Oregon town near one of America's microbrew meccas is thirsting for a piece of the action and is offering incentives for the first brewery to establish itself in the community.

In an internet presentation aimed at luring craft brewers, Madras — which sits between irrigated farmland and high desert within sight of the snow-capped Cascade Range — says it will assist in site selection and costs of architecture, engineering, permits and building renovation. It also offers expedited permitting, technical assistance and an opportunity for a start-up loan.

Consumption of craft beer in the U.S. keeps reaching new heights. Sales rose 6.2 percent by volume in 2016, to 24 million barrels, the Brewers Association said. Vermont has the most craft breweries per capita, with 10.8 per 100,000 adults. Oregon is fourth in the nation, with 8.1 per 100,000.

Madras has missed out so far in the craft beer craze. Some 40 miles to the south is Bend, which has at least 22 breweries for 91,000 residents (and many more happy tourists) — among the highest number of microbreweries per capita in the U.S.

Beer aficionados travel to Bend just to visit its brewpubs. Bend's establishments include Deschutes Brewery, which opened in 1988 and pioneered central Oregon's brewing revolution.

But Deschutes has long outgrown its microbrewery status. Its beers are available in 28 states



RYAN BRENNER, (THE BEND, ORE.) BULLETIN/AP

The town of Madras, Ore., is offering incentives to bring a microbrewery to the community.

and Canada, and it plans to open a brewery in Roanoke, Va., in 2019. Another producer, 10 Barrel Brewing, was bought in 2014 by the world's largest brewer, Anheuser-Busch InBev.

Madras' 6,300 residents have been watching all this activity with a touch of jealousy as traffic along U.S. Route 97, which slices down central Oregon from Washington state to California, zips past the Black Bear Diner and

other establishments, headed for points north or south.

"We want to be able to stop this traffic going to Bend and say, 'Come to Madras and check ours out first,'" Joe Krenowicz, executive director of the local chamber of commerce, said in a telephone interview.

Krenowicz and a dozen other Madras residents have thought for years about inviting a brewery, with a brewpub, to Madras.

the construction of a hotel and a multiplex theater, and they can be a template for this next step, Krenowicz said.

"We're certainly on the tail end of brewery growth, and we want to be a part of that," said Krenowicz, who envisions a family-friendly place with a sports lounge atmosphere and outdoor seating.

Madras has some of the purest water, coming from an artesian spring filtered by volcanic basalt. A brewer could use that water and locally produced barley, Krenowicz said.

Not everyone in the town is pleased with the invitation and incentives, however. "I don't think the city should be involved in anything like that," said Jan Six, owner of the Rialto Tavern, which is just off U.S. Route 97 and has 11 beer taps, along with liquor. "They're not supposed to be taking business away from us. We've worked really hard to build this business. It's not right."

Hundreds of residents who provided input for an Urban Renewal Action Plan wanted recruiting a brewery to be a priority, Madras Mayor Royce Embanks said.

"Madras is ready for a brewery or brewpub to call its own," Embanks said in the online appeal from the Madras Redevelopment Commission.

"The vision is for a vibrant community gathering place and an inviting destination for friends, family and tourists."

The ad called Madras the "last best place in Oregon without a brewery (yet!)"

The town initially was going to be named after a pioneer but had to choose an alternative because it resembled another town's name.

"The city fathers cast around. One was in somebody's store, picked up a bolt of cloth — Madras cloth — and said 'That's a pretty good name,'" Jarold Ramsey, director of the Jefferson County Historical Society, said with a laugh.

Madras offered incentives for

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WORLD



SEGREI GRITS/AP

Supporters of former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili carry a portrait of him seen through prison bars as they march in Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday demanding his release from jail.

Protesters call for Ukraine's president to be impeached

By YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Several thousand supporters of opposition leader Mikheil Saakashvili rallied in the Ukrainian capital Sunday, demanding his release from jail and calling for the country's president to be impeached.

Saakashvili, the former president of Georgia-turned-opposition leader in Ukraine, was arrested Friday on allegations that he colluded with Ukrainian businessmen tied to Russia to topple President Petro Poroshenko.

Saakashvili rejected the allegations, and his lawyer said he was refusing food to protest his detention.

Saakashvili's supporters marched across downtown Kiev, chanting "Down with the Gang!" and "Impeachment!"

They rallied on the capital's main Independence Square, the Maidan, which was the focus of massive protests that drove Ukraine's former Russia-friendly president from power in February 2014, and then walked toward the where Saakashvili has been held. Saakashvili faces the prospect of being sent back to his native Georgia, which has sought him on abuse of office charges.

Saakashvili's wife, Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs, said Ukrainian authorities "crossed a red line" by arresting him.

In a reference to the business background of Poroshenko, who ran a chocolate business before his election, she said, "We need to show him that politics is not business, and people are not merchandise."

The demonstrators smashed the windows of a candy store be-

longing to Poroshenko's company, Roshen.

Yegor Sobolev, an ally of Saakashvili's who was removed Thursday as chairman of a parliamentary anti-corruption committee by Poroshenko's faction and its allies, called for the president's dismissal.

"Impeachment is a way to move from kleptocracy to democracy," Sobolev said at the rally.

Protester Valery Shapovalov carried a big poster showing Poroshenko behind bars.

"Poroshenko is an oligarch, and it's silly to expect him to fight corruption," Shapovalov said. "Bees can't oppose honey."

Activists of the Right Sector, a far-right nationalist group, and veterans of the war against pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine joined the rally.

Snow disrupts air and road travel in England and Wales

Associated Press

LONDON — Snow is causing travel disruptions across central England and northern Wales, grounding flights, shutting down roads and causing traffic accidents.

Birmingham and London Stansted Airports suspended flights as runways were cleared. The airports both advised passengers to contact their airlines to check their flight status.

"Please be advised that flight delays and cancellations are expected due to the adverse weather

conditions," Stansted warned.

The M1 motorway, the main highway between London and northeast England — was partially closed in Leicestershire.

Police in Wales warned against all but the most essential travel amid snowfall that is forecast to last throughout the day. Strong winds slammed into the Welsh coast.

The Met Office warned of wind and rain for London and southern England, with gusts of up to 70 mph predicted. Parts of the British capital were coated with snow Sunday morning.



STEVE PARSONS, PA/AP

A man walks past a snow-covered phone box in Marlow, England, on Sunday.

Israel: New 'tools' destroyed Hamas tunnel in Gaza Strip

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military on Sunday said it has destroyed a tunnel built by the Hamas militant group that stretched from the Gaza Strip several hundred yards into Israeli territory, declaring a breakthrough in its war against underground threats from the Palestinian enclave.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, told reporters that Israel had used a new set of "tools" developed since a 2014 war with Hamas to destroy the tunnel. He said forces had detected the tunnel months ago and continued to monitor construction efforts by Hamas militants before demolishing it.

Israel has made neutralizing the tunnel threat a top priority since that war, when Hamas militants on several occasions masqueraded their way into Israel. Although they did not manage to reach civilian areas, the infiltrations caught Israel off guard, killing five soldiers in one attack, and terrified the local population.

Conricus said a new system involving combat units, military intelligence, logistics and research had been used to destroy the tunnel. The system was first used to detect a tunnel that was destroyed on Oct. 30, but other aspects of the system were used this time around, he said.

"There seems to be a change, a paradigm here in how these terrorist tunnels will be able to threat-

en us in the future," he said. "It is by no means behind us, but this will surely force the terrorist organizations to change techniques and to adapt."

Hamas, the armed group that controls Gaza, declined to comment.

Conricus said the tunnel began in the central Gaza town of Khan Younis and stretched for more than a half a mile across the border and into Israel. Although not complete, he said, the tunnel was "very substantial," equipped with electricity, communications equipment and a ventilation system. It was located about a kilometer from an Israeli community.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said the tunnels were an unacceptable threat and that Israel would invest "every resource" to stop them. "I hope that in the coming months the threat of tunnels on the residents surrounding Gaza will become a thing of the past," he said.

The army said the timing of the weekend operation was not connected to a flare-up of deadly violence that followed President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The Israeli Defense Minister said the Palestinians, who seek Israel-annexed east Jerusalem as their own capital.

Over the weekend, Israeli airstrikes hit several militant sites in Gaza in response to rocket fire, killing two Hamas militants. On Friday, two protesters were shot dead in skirmishes with Israeli troops along Gaza's border.

German intel warns of Chinese cyberspying

Associated Press

BERLIN — The head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency warned Sunday that China is using social networks to try to cultivate sources of information among lawmakers and officials while Chinese hackers are increasingly attacking European companies through trusted suppliers.

Hans-Georg Maassen said his agency, known by its German acronym BFV, believes more than 10,000 Germans have been targeted by Chinese intelligence agents posing as consultants, headhunters or researchers, primarily on the social networking site LinkedIn.

The BFV established a task force early this year which examined the use of fake profiles on social networks over a nine-month period.

The agency provided journalists with what it said where eight

of the most prolific fake profiles on LinkedIn used by Chinese spies.

Using names such as Lily Wu, Laeticia Chen or Alex Li, the profiles sport an impressive resume, hundreds of contacts and attractive pictures of young professionals.

The agency also named six organizations it said are used by Chinese spies, including one called the Association France Euro-Chine and another named Global View Strategic Consulting.

Messages seeking comment from the organizations weren't immediately returned.

Maassen warned that Chinese cybergroups are also using so-called "supply-chain attacks" to get around companies' online defenses. Such attacks target IT workers and others who work for a trusted service providers in order to send malicious software into the networks of organizations the attackers are interested in.

WORLD

France mourns rocker Hallyday amid tears, pomp, extravagance

BY THOMAS ADAMSON
AND ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS — France bid farewell to its biggest rock star Saturday, honoring Johnny Hallyday with an extravagant funeral procession down Paris' Champs-Élysées Avenue, a presidential speech and a televised church ceremony filled with the country's most famous faces.

Few figures in French history have earned a send-off with as much pomp as the man dubbed the "French Elvis," who notched more than 110 million in record sales since rising to fame in the 1960s.

Hallyday died Wednesday at 74 after fighting lung cancer.

In an honor usually reserved for heads of state or literary giants like 19th-century novelist Victor Hugo, Hallyday's funeral cortege rode past Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe monument and down the Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde plaza on the Seine River.

Adding a rock touch to the event, hundreds of motorcyclists accompanied the procession. It was a nod to the lifelong passion that Hallyday, born Jean-Philippe Smet, had for motorcycles. His biker image included signature leather jackets and myriad tattoos.

French President Emmanuel

Macron — a Hallyday fan himself, like three generations of others across the French-speaking world — delivered a eulogy on the steps of Paris' Madeleine Church for the star known to the public affectionately by only one name.

"Johnny belonged to you, Johnny belonged to his public. Johnny belonged to his country," said Macron, whose voice was broadcast via speakers to the many thousands of often tearful mourners in central Paris.

"He should have fallen a hundred times, but what held him up and lifted him was your fervor, the love," said Macron of the star's health troubles and famously excessive lifestyle.

Hallyday's death unleashed a wave of emotion across France, where he had been a symbol of national identity and stability for more than half a century — even though his private life had been far from stable.

Aside from the drinking, smoking and partying chronicled in juicy detail by the French press, Hallyday had been linked to a string of glamorous women and had married five times.

Chants of "Johnny! Johnny!" and thunderous applause rose up Saturday as fans broke out singing Hallyday classics including "Que je t'aime" ("How I Love You").



THIBAUT CAMUS/AP

Palbearers load the coffin of French rocker Johnny Hallyday into a waiting hearse Saturday following funeral services at the Madeleine church in Paris.

3 held in bomb attack on Swedish synagogue

HELSINKI — Three people have been arrested on suspicion of throwing firebombs at a synagogue in the Swedish city of Göteborg.

No one was injured in the attack late Saturday during a youth event at the synagogue and the adjacent Jewish center in Sweden's second-largest city.

Göteborg police spokesman Peter Nordengard said Sunday it is being investigated as an at-

tempted arson.

Officials have increased security around the synagogue and at a Jewish center in capital of Stockholm.

Witness Allan Stutzinsky told the TT news agency he saw a dozen masked youths who threw objects into the garden surrounding the synagogue.

Demonstrations have taken place in Stockholm and Malmö in the past week over President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

From The Associated Press



PHOTOS BY HAMADA ELRASAM/AP

An Egyptian guard stands next to a funeral mural inside a newly discovered tomb on Luxor's West Bank known as KAMPP 161 during an announcement Saturday for the Egyptian Ministry of antiquities about new discoveries in Luxor, Egypt.

Archaeologists discover 2 tombs in Egypt's Luxor

BY NARIMAN EL-MOFITY
Associated Press

LUXOR, Egypt — Egypt on Saturday announced the discovery of two small ancient tombs in the southern city Luxor dating back some 3,500 years and hoped it will help the country's efforts to revive its ailing tourism sector.

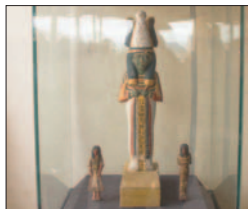
The tombs, located on the west bank of the river Nile in a cemetery for noblemen and top officials, are the latest discovery in the city famed for its temples and tombs spanning different dynasties of ancient Egyptian history.

"It's truly an exceptional day," Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani said. "The 18th-dynasty private tombs were already known. But it's the first time to enter inside the two tombs."

Al-Anani said the discoveries are part of the ministry's efforts to promote Egypt's vital tourism industry, partially driven by antiquities sightseeing, that was hit hard by extremist attacks and political turmoil following the 2011 uprising.

The ministry said one tomb has a courtyard lined with mud-brick and stone walls and contains a 6-meter burial shaft leading to four side chambers. The artifacts found inside were mostly fragments of wooden coffins. Wall inscriptions and paintings suggest it belongs to era between the reigns of King Amenhotep II and King Thutmose IV, both pharaohs of the 18th dynasty.

The other tomb has five entrances leading to a rectangular hall and contains two burial shafts located in the northern and



Above: Egyptian excavation workers restore a mummy Saturday in the newly discovered tomb known as KAMPP 150.

Left: Wooden statues are displayed near KAMPP 161.

southern sides of the tomb.

Among the artifacts found inside are funerary cones, painted wooden funerary masks, clay vessels, a collection of some 450 statues and a mummy wrapped in linen who was likely a top official. A cartouche carved on the ceiling bears the name of King Thutmose I of the early 18th dynasty, the ministry said.

Afterward, al-Anani headed to a nearby site where the famous

Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut is located to open for the first time the temple's main sanctuary known as the "Holy of Holies."

Since the beginning of 2017, the Antiquities Ministry has made a string of discoveries in several provinces across Egypt — including the tomb of a royal goldsmith, in the same area and belonging to the same dynasty, whose work was dedicated to the ancient Egyptian god Amun.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen turns self in over video showing theft

FL PEMBROKE PINES — A teenager says his family and friends urged him to turn himself in days after surveillance video captured the theft of an assault rifle and other items from a police cruiser parked outside a Florida home.

The widely shared video released by Pembroke Pines police showed the face of the thief as he took the rifle, a police vest, a stun gun and ammunition from the Opa-locka police car parked outside the officer's home early Tuesday morning.

An arrest report says the teen showed up at the Hallandale Beach Police Department on Thursday morning, telling investigators he threw away the stolen items — including the assault rifle. But he couldn't say where.

He's charged with vehicle theft, Pembroke Pines police said they're trying to locate the items.

Cops: Boy thinks gun is a toy, shoots sister, 6

PA HARRISBURG — Police said a 10-year-old boy playing with a gun he thought was a toy shot his 6-year-old sister in the chest. Officials are searching for the official are searching for the boy who left the gun in the home.

Harrisburg police Capt. Gabriel Olivera said police were called to the home about 2 a.m. Thursday for a report of shots fired. Officers arrived to find a blood trail leading to a 6-year-old girl on the floor and her mother frantically trying to help her.

She was taken to a hospital where she was in critical but stable condition. She's expected to survive.

Police are searching for Tremayne James, 24, who they said put the gun in the home. He's related to the family.

Islamic group sues over workplace prayer

WI GREEN BAY — An Islamic group is suing a Wisconsin manufacturer alleging it failed to accommodate 19 Muslim employees who wanted to take prayer breaks during work time.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in Green Bay on Wednesday by the Council on American-Islamic Relations wants the Ariens Co. to rehire the former employees and give them back pay and damages. The plaintiffs also want the Brillawn lawn mower manufacturer to reinstate a religious accommodation policy allowing the employees to take short breaks for prayers.

The Journal Sentinel reported Jaylani Hussein, director of the council's Minnesota chapter, said Ariens forced the Muslim employees to choose between their faith and their employment.

Man guilty of illegally transporting snakes

CT BRIDGEPORT — A man who illegally collected endangered snakes and shipped them to his Connecticut

THE CENSUS

\$3M

The amount a couple duped an Oregon man into loaning them in a case that is sending the pair to prison. Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Bradford said in federal court Thursday that Hiep Cong Van and Thy Minh Phan told the victim they needed help operating a landscaping business in Colorado, but spent the money gambling in Las Vegas. Van was sentenced to three years and one month in prison, and Phan got a one-year, nine-month term.



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Deadly aim

A sculpture titled "Dangerous Game" by Italian artist Lorenzo Quinn is displayed Friday in the Wynwood neighborhood of Miami. The two-part installation shows a giant hand holding a nuclear missile as if it were a dart. The dart is aimed across the street at a United Nations logo painted in red. The installation was timed to coincide with Miami Art Week and Art Basel Miami Beach.

home has pleaded guilty to illegally transporting protected wildlife. William Carl Bartlett entered his plea Wednesday in federal court.

Prosecutors say Bartlett, a collector of snakes and other reptiles, took two kingsnakes from the Outer Banks of North Carolina in violation of that state's laws and brought them to Connecticut to breed. In July 2012, he shipped 10 kingsnakes via overnight courier to a person in Pennsylvania.

Prosecutors say he also collected five coastal plain milk snakes in Maryland in 2015 in violation of state law and brought them to Connecticut.

Judge to decide cruelty case involving raccoons

PA PITTSBURGH — A Pennsylvania judge will decide whether raccoons are protected animals or vermin meant to be disposed.

Allegheny County officials said William Killgallon, 68, has been charged with felony animal cruelty after Pittsburgh police said he admitted to drowning trapped raccoons in a barrel.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported Killgallon's attorney argued Tuesday that his client should not have been charged in the first place. He argued raccoon is vermin that are not protected under an animal cruelty law.

Deputy District Attorney Jennifer DiGiovanni disagreed, saying "a raccoon is very different from a cockroach." DiGiovanni contended animals like raccoons should be killed humanely, not drowned in a barrel.

Man is charged after mother is found in filth

WA EVERETT — A Washington man has been charged with criminal mistreatment after his 81-year-old mother was found lying in filth with a broken hip and bound legs.

The Everett Herald reported Kenneth Strand, 53, was charged Tuesday. He was in Snohomish County Jail on \$150,000 bail.

Strand was arrested Dec. 1 after he called 911 to bring paramedics to the home he shares with his mother.

Authorities said she was found with bedsores and in clothing that

was soiled with feces and urine. Court documents show a doctor characterized her injuries as life-threatening.

Strand told detectives he works three fast-food jobs, is tired all the time and struggles to provide care for his mother.

Skull found in car was Native American's

CA ANGELS CAMP — Authorities say a human skull found last month in the trunk of a car during a Northern California traffic stop belongs to a Native American and was dug up from a construction site.

The Stockton Record reported Tuesday that officials determined the skull was that of a Native American but experts are still trying to determine its age and whether it was extracted from a Native American burial site.

Deborah Grimes, a member of the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, said she went to the site and though she did not find additional human remains, she located tools used by the land's original inhabitants.

Angels Camp police officers on

Nov. 22 pulled over Joshua Davis, 41, of Murphys, for failing to halt at a stop sign. They found methamphetamine behind the fuel door and the skull in the trunk.

Skydiving Santa crashes on beach, breaks leg

FL GULFPORT — A skydiving Santa looking to make a grand entrance while taking an Elf on the Shelf to a 9-year-old girl crashed into a tree and light pole before hitting a Florida beach and breaking his leg.

News outlets said George Krokus was dressed as Santa Claus during a Dec. 2 skydive to deliver toys to the Tampa Bay Beach Bums Operation Santa Charity Volleyball Tournament.

Madison Spiers saw the crash and later found a note from the "elf" named Kristoff who visits her house during the holidays. It said, "As we were about to land, this big tree jumped right out in front of us!"

She told Bay News 9 that Kristoff is no stranger to adventure.

The elf sported a bandaged leg while staying with the recovering Krokus.

From wire reports

FACES

No bull

WWE and 'Ferdinand' star John Cena talks proposal, politics

BY HELENA ANDREWS-DYER/The Washington Post

There isn't much that can turn down the volume on a symphony of excited grade schoolers. On Dec. 6, even Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden could only press pause on the giddiness as nearly 400 kids waited — at times patiently, at times not — for a very special story time. It's not every day that John Cena, WWE champion and newly minted movie star, shows up at the Library of Congress to read from an 80-year-old copy of "The Story of Ferdinand," the source material for Cena's new movie. (Guess who he plays?)

Dressed in a navy pin-striped suit that was all but bursting at the biceps, Cena's baritone managed to still the squirming auditorium as he recounted the tale of a big bull who likes flowers more than fighting. We caught up with the wrestling actor (or the acting wrestler) after a lightning round of questions from the kids, including: "When you were first born, what did you want to be?" ("Well, first I opened my eyes ...") and "What do you practice?" ("Tolerance.")

Your name came up in a congressional hearing last spring, when a congressman asked what took you so long to propose to fellow wrestler Nikki Bella.

Cena: I guess I wanted to do my due diligence and make sure it was the right choice, and I certainly have. That was the most nervous I've ever been in my entire life. The uncertainty and the nerves and the excitement and the environment is what made it such a wonderful moment.

Speaking of Congress, your WWE brother Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has toyed with a bid for president. Good idea? And would you be his running mate?

I would not run with him because I'm a lumbering man. I don't run very well. But anything — anything — he puts his mind to, he does with a level of excellence you rarely ever see. So whether he's just trying to stir up the political pot or if he is genuinely serious, I know that when and if he does decide, he will make an all-out commitment.

Others have made the leap from the wrestling ring to the political ring. What's the connection between the two gigs?

FALL
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You get to know people and you get to know the things they care about. It's a politician's job to govern for the people. I can understand the gravity of wanting to be in that realm because you're with people all day. You

hear the ups and downs of the people you perform in front of.

You dressed up as former secretary of state Hillary Clinton for the Teen Choice Awards. Politics and entertainment are mingling like never before, and so many celebrities are politically outspoken these days. Why is that?

Because of the unfortunate divide that the nation seems to be going through. I think the reaction to that is special because a lot of people are using their voice. The way this country is built is very unique, and it's wonderful because if one feels the pendulum is ever swinging too far to one side, they can stand up. So whether you have a hundred million people following you or whether you stand on a soapbox and yell at the top of your lungs, it's a way to use your voice.

"The Story of Ferdinand" was really politicized in its day. Hitler ordered copies of the book burned. Can the movie's message still be politicized today?

You can politicize anything. They base entire channels on it. But (today) the message is the same, and that's why it's been so popular. I love the last line of the book. (Ferdinand's still sitting there smelling the flowers and the very last line is "and he is happy.") That doesn't have a time period or a political affiliation.



John Cena, left, shares his voice in the animated "Ferdinand," above.

Twentieth Century Fox Film

'Game of Thrones' won't return until 2019, says Sophie Turner

BY KATE FELDMAN
New York Daily News

Winter is coming, but it might take a while.

"Game of Thrones" star Sophie Turner revealed to Variety that the eighth and final season of the HBO show won't air until 2019.

Casey Bloys, president of programming for HBO, hinted at a delayed

premiere in June when she said show-runners D.B. Weiss and David Benioff could spend as long as 18 months working on the season.

Turner did offer another tidbit about the show, though, particularly how Sansa Stark will deal with Littlefinger's death.

"It's going to be tricky for her, because at the end of last season, she felt like she had everything set up. She had her family back together. They were

in control of the North again," she told Variety.

"This season, there's a new threat, and all of a sudden she finds herself somewhat back in the deep end. And without Littlefinger, it's a test for her of whether she can get through it. It's a big challenge for her, without this master manipulator having her back. This season is more a passionate fight for her than a political, manipulative kind of fight."

Rowling 'happy' for Depp's casting

"Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling has broken her silence about the controversial casting of Johnny Depp in the "Fantastic Beasts" movie franchise, which is set to continue next November with "Fantastic Beasts: the Crimes of Grindelwald."

Rowling supported Depp's casting in a statement on her website.

"When Johnny Depp was cast as Grindelwald, I thought he'd be wonderful in the role. However, around the time of filming his cameo in the first movie, stories had appeared in the press that deeply concerned me and everyone most closely involved in the franchise."

The concern was founded allegations that Depp had abused his then-wife Amber Heard during their one-year marriage in 2015. After a restraining order due to Heard's claims of emotional and physical abuse — to which she provided photographic and video proof — Heard and Depp reached a \$7 million settlement. Many fans saw the decision to keep Depp as antithetical to the theme of the series, using magic and friendship to counter abuse of power.

However, Rowling is not only stuck to the decision to cast Depp, she said she and the producers were "happy" to have Depp in the role and called it "the right thing."

"Based on our understanding of the circumstances, the decision makers I am not only comfortable sticking with our original casting, but genuinely happy to have Johnny playing a major character in the movies," Rowling said.

"I accept that there will be those who are not satisfied with our choice of actor in the title role. However, conscience isn't governable by committee. Within the fictional world and outside it, we all have to do what we believe to be the right thing," she concluded.

Meanwhile, Heard posted her joint divorce statement with Depp, in full, to Instagram on Dec. 7 after Rowling's post. "For the record, this was our FULL joint statement. To pick and choose certain lines and quote them out of context, is just not right," Heard wrote. "Women, continue to stand up and stay strong."

Heard seemed to be taking a shot at Rowling's post, in which Rowling said both Heard and Depp wanted to move forward. "The agreements that have been put in place to protect the privacy of two people, both of whom have expressed a desire to get on with their lives, must be respected," a statement on the author's website read.

Singer sued for assaulting teenager

Bryan Singer, the director of "X-Men" and "The Usual Suspects," has been accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old in 2003.

Cesar Sanchez-Guzman filed a lawsuit against Singer last week, claiming that when Sanchez-Guzman was a teen, he attended a yacht party in Seattle, where Singer pushed him down on a bed and sexually assaulted him.

In a statement to the Associated Press, a representative for Singer said the director "categorically denies these allegations and will vehemently defend this lawsuit to the very end."

Twentieth Century Fox fired Singer from directing the Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" when he failed to return to the set following the Thanksgiving break. A representative told the BBC that Singer's absence was due to "a personal health matter concerning Bryan and his family."

Other news

■ Ryan Reynolds has signed on to top-line the live-action "Detective Pikachu" and will begin shooting next month, the Hollywood Reporter first reported. Reynolds will play the title gumshoe who helps a boy find his father within this world of mighty Pokemon beasts.

■ Geoffrey Rush said Dec. 8 he is suing a Sydney newspaper for defamation over its reporting of an actress' complaint against the Oscar-winning actor of "inappropriate behavior." The Daily Telegraph newspaper broke the story that the Sydney Theatre Company had confirmed receiving the complaint. The company has released no details of the complaint other than to say the allegation involved "inappropriate behavior" while Rush was an employee and was not raised until after he had left. Rush has denied any misconduct.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Blackwater founder wins legal battle with ex-partner

By IAN SHAPIRA
The Washington Post

A marathon legal battle between a combat knife salesman and Erik Prince, the founder of Blackwater, came to an end Friday after a northern Virginia judge awarded the former security firm executive \$2.6 million in civil damages on numerous counts, including breach of contract and fraud.

The jury's decision comes after a testy, lengthy dispute between Prince, 48, who is an ex-Navy SEAL, and Robert Young Pelton, 62, a California-based war correspondent who owns a survival gear company called DPx Gear.

For several years, the two men have been suing each other, first in federal court and then in Loudoun County, Va., where Prince keeps a residence in nearby Middleburg.

The trial in Leesburg — which featured rare public testimony by Prince — happened to coincide with his name surfacing in connection with a meeting early this year with an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his purported pitch to President-elect Donald Trump to establish a private network of spies. (Prince denied his involvement with that proposal, which was reported last week by The Intercept.)

Prince, who sold Blackwater in

2010 after years of scandals and government investigations, had hired Pelton in early 2011 to manufacture and sell Blackwater-branded combat knives, apparel and other items in an effort to revive the company's reputation.

But it did not work out that way.

Pelton claimed that Prince prematurely terminated their Blackwater contract in 2013, just as the former Blackwater chief was procuring a \$2 million book deal with Portfolio Penguin for his autobiography, "Civilian Warriors." Pelton argued that Prince owed him \$961,000.

Prince, meanwhile, countered, accusing Pelton of breach of

contract, fraud, unjust enrichment and civil theft. He argued that he had given Pelton's company more than \$2 million and received no return on any investment.

Worse, Prince argued, Pelton misallocated \$720,000 of his money for a website that Pelton established called the Somalia Report, which tracked news about piracy and hostages. Prince claimed he never gave Pelton permission to use his money for the website — and that his wire transfers should have been dedicated solely to their Blackwater brand contract.

During the trial, Pelton showed jurors a contract between the two men in which Prince agreed to

pay Pelton \$133,000 per month to train him in the Somalia Report into a 24-7 news operation to furnish him with exclusive, on-demand information about piracy in Somalia.

Prince, however, said he never signed the Somalia Report contract and suggested that his signature on the document was somehow transposed. Prince also testified that he told Pelton over the phone not to spend the \$720,000 on the website.

All seven jurors declined to comment after the court adjudged.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 11)	\$1.2955
Dollar buys (Dec. 11)	69.8295
British pound (Dec. 11)	\$1.38
Japanese yen (Dec. 11)	110.60
South Korean won (Dec. 11)	1,065.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3411
Canada (Dollar)	1.2853
China (Yuan)	6.6201
Denmark (Krone)	6.3296
Egypt (Pound)	17.7989
Euro	\$1.1756/0.8506
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8056
Hungary (Forint)	267.00
Israel (Shekel)	3.2545
Japan (Yen)	113.26
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3020
Norway (Krone)	8.3076
Philippines (Peso)	50.52
Poland (Zloty)	3.57
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3517
Sri Lanka (Won)	1,091.98
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9943
Thailand (Baht)	32.65
Turkey (Lira)	3.8250
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.00
Discount rate	1.75
Federals funds market rate	1.16
3-month bill	1.25
30-year bond	2.77

Media fight Kushners for names of partners in Md. firm

By BERNARD CONDON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — News outlets including The Associated Press filed a motion in federal court Friday arguing that a document containing the names of investors in some Kushner Cos. apartment buildings in Maryland should be unsealed and available to the media.

The Kushner Cos. has argued that the privacy rights of its partners in its Maryland buildings outweigh the public interest in the disclosure, saying the media's "politically-motivated" coverage of the case puts those rights — and the partners' reputations — at risk. President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, was CEO of the company before becoming an adviser to the president earlier this year.

The case before U.S. district court in Maryland was brought by tenants alleging a Kushner

Cos. subsidiary called Westminster Management charges excessive and illegal rent. The lawsuit seeks class action status for tenants in the 17 apartment complexes owned by the company in the state.

The Kushner Cos. has said it has no laws and denies the charges.

In a motion on Friday, media outlets argued the press has a "presumptive right" to see court documents, and that the Kushner Cos. has not raised a "compelling government interest" that the law says is needed to block access.

The AP joined ProPublica, The Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun and Baltimore TV station WMAR-TV in filing the brief.

Properties owned by the Kushner family have come under scrutiny since Trump became president because of the potential conflict between the family's financial interests and the pursuit

of the public good in government policy. Ethics lawyers and good-government groups have argued that policy could be shaped in favor of not just Kushner Cos. but its partners and lenders.

Jared Kushner has filed financial disclosure documents with government ethics officials who oversee potential conflicts of interest, but the disclosures do not detail many of the partners who invest alongside his family company.

In a court filing last month, the Kushner Cos. blasted the media for "unfair sensationalism" in stories about the Maryland case. It said additional coverage triggered by disclosures of its partners' names would hurt the company's ability to get an impartial decision from the court.

The Kushner Cos. also said disclosure of its partners' identities would trample on their right to remain private.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

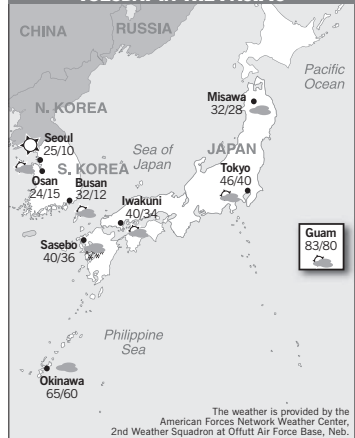
MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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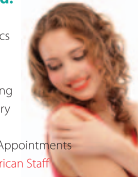
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OPINION

Al Franken shouldn't have folded

By CHRISTINE FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Here is the tweet I sent to Al Franken Wednesday night: @SenFranken I am a conservative Republican known as the Sarah Palin of Philadelphia. I urge you not to resign. Sexual assault is real, and as an asylum practitioner I know that better than anyone. Your resignation would diminish the harm that real victims suffer. Don't do it.

He obviously didn't listen. I suppose one lonely tweet from the Sarah Palin of Philadelphia paled in comparison to his Senate colleagues, particularly the ones who have ovaries and daughters and "D" after their names.

Franken is the latest, but clearly not the last, piece of road kill on the hashtag highway, a dangerous and very slippery stretch of road where badly behaved men go to die. Rest In Perfidy.

The senator from Minnesota resigned Thursday after having been pushed to exit from the stage by his own tribe — liberals who showed that they were just as capable of eating their own as they are of going after President Donald Trump and his motley crew. In a way, that says something good about their equal-opportunity opposition.

I'm as conservative as they come, but I look at this from an entirely different perspective. As I've written before, this #MeToo moment has gotten unyielding and unforgiving, mixing all sorts of conduct together and retroactively stigmatizing acts that — until the social media age — were

considered boorish and brutish but not sexual offenses. Now, the white gloves are off, and women have decided that it is time for payback in full.

I know that many people disagree with me and take the position that anything that makes a woman feel uncomfortable should not be sanctioned. The bar for social shunning has been lowered to the point where men are now afraid to shake a woman's hand.

Some conservatives are thrilled about what's happening to Franken and others like him and to see the resurrected female ghosts of the Clinton era. I can't really blame my tribe for this tendency to exult, because we've been tarred and feathered as the people who hate women and want to use their bodies as incubators for an unlimited supply of babies, who can be turned into conservative foot soldiers.

But I'm angry that the people who should see through the dangers of agitprop and exaggeration are themselves falling victim to it because, now, the other guy's bill is getting gored. Out the window fly the values and principles we supposedly hold dear, because a liberal is being vilified. I see the newsfeeds on Facebook and Twitter, and wonder what happened to the idea of personal responsibility and due process.

I'm not denying that women have been

abused and assaulted. Again, I have intimate knowledge of what women have been bruised, bloodied and bludgeoned. It happened, it still happens, and it will continue to happen unless we make sure that the perpetrators are arrested and convicted.

But an old man in a wheelchair copping a feel is not a predator. An 80-year-old actor who made lascivious comments four decades ago to an intern is not a predator.

A senator who, as a comic, played fast and loose with his female colleagues is not a predator. He was a smarmy, supercilious comic who liked to ridicule conservatives, and he's a person who regularly looks down his nose at those who don't share his progressive ideals. (Although I agree that sloppy kisses are probably on the outer edge of those accepted ideals.) I put him in the "he's too smart for us" category.

But he is not a sexual predator. There are too many real predators out there, and we make it easier for them to blend into the background when we shine a spotlight on the famous men who transgress. Writer Lisa DePaulo said as much when I interviewed her on my radio show last week. She made the excellent point that it's the waitress, the nurse, the office intern that we need to worry about, not the woman who can hire Gloria Allred for a photo op.

She's right. Trying to hook the big, shiny, wriggling marlin for a public feast helps us to ignore all the other predators in the sea. This #MeToo moment is an exercise in revenge, not redemption.

I'm sorry Franken folded.

Christine Flowers is a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.

How to avoid being offensive at the company party

Drink as much or as little as you would like. ... If, however, drinking causes you to assault women, stop drinking immediately and forever.

her?

When deciding what you should and shouldn't say to your female co-worker, pretend for a moment that she's Clark from IT. Would you, straight man, tell Clark that he looked good? Probably not, but if so, you would likely say something along the lines of, "That's a nice blazer, Clark." You would not say, "Wow, someone cleans up nice. You look amazing in that blazer, Clark." Comment on her outfit only if you are genuinely interested in said outfit and would be comfortable telling this boldface lie to Santa.

■ She smells really nice, too. Can I tell her?

No. Presumably, you have smelled many things throughout the day and didn't comment on them. This is no different. You shouldn't tell her she smells good for the same reason you didn't walk in the conference room and ask who farted — you're an adult at work, and adults don't do that at work.

■ What amount of touching is appropriate at a holiday party?

Let's bring Clark back for a minute. Would you shake his hand? Yes — handshakes among co-workers are always appropriate. Gentle, congenial shoulder tap? Sure. Lingering shoulder tap? Doubtful. Lingering shoulder tap with slight rubbing? Absolutely not. Any tap below the shoulder area? Stop that right now.

■ So you're saying I shouldn't grab her

by the you-know-what?

No. Unless you're the president of the United States of America, this will almost assuredly cost you your job.

■ What about drinking? Is it OK?

After the past 12 months we've had, drinking is definitely OK. Drink as much or as little as you would like, then call an Uber as needed. If, however, drinking causes you to assault women, stop drinking immediately and forever.

■ And what about dancing — is dancing OK?

With very few exceptions, it is almost never a good idea to dance at the office holiday party these days because even holi-day in accounting knows how to post a video to Facebook. But again, as long as you refrain from assaulting anyone while doing so, you're good.

■ Not to get off track, but might this conversation be a bit privileged? With all of the violence being committed against women, it seems irresponsible to waste this space talking about holiday party etiquette.

This is a great point. Some would say this is an ugly symptom of white feminism, which is defining feminism as "empowering as it's been to see companies finally fire predatory creeps, it's worrisome to think that men might simply stop socializing with female co-workers. Lunches and happy hours are where the real networking happens, and women need to be part of these conversations. So yes, invite them to the after-party, have a good time and keep them in mind when a great new position arises on your team.

■ About the after-party: Is it OK to invite women?

Yes! In fact, it's more than OK — it's really important. As empowering as it's been to see companies finally fire predatory creeps, it's worrisome to think that men might simply stop socializing with female co-workers. Lunches and happy hours are where the real networking happens, and women need to be part of these conversations. So yes, invite them to the after-party, have a good time and keep them in mind when a great new position arises on your team.

Monica Weymouth is a writer in Pennsylvania.

OPINION

Trump puts fact ahead of fiction in Israel

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

The most exhausting thing about the Middle East — except for the bloodshed, poverty, tyranny, etc. — is that it refuses to conform to how it's described in the West.

It's like journalists, diplomats and politicians want to announce a football game, but the players keep insisting on playing rugby. The field looks similar. The scoring isn't all that different. It's just a different game. But don't tell the gang in the booth. They get furious when you point out that the facts don't line up with the commentary.

Consider President Donald Trump's momentous (though for now mostly symbolic) announcement that the United States will recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Before you can debate whether this was a good move, you must acknowledge one glaring fact that the chatters want to ignore or downplay: It's true. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. The Knesset, Israel's parliament, convenes there. Israelis call it their capital for the same reason they claim two plus two equals four. It's just true.

What makes the decision controversial is that everyone had agreed to pretend it wasn't the capital in order to protect "the peace process."

That's another term that doesn't quite

correspond with reality. There is no peace process. Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president finishing the 12th year of his four-year term, has refused to meet with the Israelis to discuss anything since early in the Obama administration.

Part of the blame for that, of course, belongs with former President Barack Obama, who built an entire foreign policy around what he wanted to be true rather than what was actually going on. Obama sought to distance the U.S. from Israel on the assumption that Israel was the unreasonably stubborn party in the "peace process." That's why, on the way out the door, the Obama administration broke with precedent and opted not to veto a U.N. Security Council resolution declaring East Jerusalem "occupied territory."

This implied that, as a matter of international law, the Western Wall and the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem really belongs to the Palestinians — which is an insane fantasy.

But denying reality is how this game has long been played. In his speech after Trump's announcement, Abbas talked at great length about Jerusalem's history as a Muslim and Christian city. He made no mention of the fact that it's also a famously Jewish city, having been established as the capital of ancient Israel 1,000 years before Jesus was born.

Trump called the move "a recognition of



Ariel Schalit/AP

President Donald Trump announced the United States will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

reality." People invested in irreality insist it will worsen "the Middle East conflict."

Here, too, we have mislabeling. Books are dedicated to the Middle East conflict, as if the Israel-Palestinian issue is the only conflict in the region. Tell that to the hundreds of thousands of dead Syrians or the millions displaced by the civil war there. Tell it to those dying in Yemen, site of a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The Palestinians and their Arab patrons insisted to gullible Westerners that the Israel-Palestinian conflict was the source of all the region's problems. Was the Iran-Iraq war, which cost more than a million lives, a fight over Palestinian statehood? What about the Lebanese civil war? Turkey's

campaign against the Kurds?

The only people who bought the idea that the Middle East conflict began and ended with Israel were those guys in the control booth describing the wrong game — i.e., Western experts and activists deeply invested in the "peace process."

If you've dedicated your entire professional life to a cause that covers your airfare and lodging in Paris or Geneva while you discuss grave matters, it's probably hard not to cling to fictions.

But those fictions are losing their hold, ironically thanks in large part to the Obama administration. Obama threw the balance of power in the region heavily in Israel's favor, lifting sanctions and giving Iran hundreds of billions of dollars. He thought the Iranians would join the community of nations or some such twaddle. Instead, they pocketed the money and are now on a surer path to a nuclear bomb.

As a result of this new reality, the old fictions are a luxury. Iran and regional adversaries can no longer afford. That's why Saudi Arabia, a longtime Palestinian patron, has been moving steadily closer to Israel: because Israel is a more valuable friend in the new Middle East conflict than the Palestinians are — or Obama was.

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Senators attach VA caregiver expansion to reform plan

By TOM PHILPOTT
Special to Stars and Stripes

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has embraced a plan from Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 caregiver benefits to older generations of veterans and caregivers, attaching her bill to a legislative package whose centerpiece — reform of the Choice program — is seen as critical for Congress to pass, if not this month then by early next year.

"It is moving with another bill that has a lot of member support, so that gives me a great deal of hope," Murray said in a phone interview immediately after the committee voted 14-1 on Nov. 29 to forward its omnibus veterans bill, the Caring for Our Veterans Act (S 2193), to the full Senate for debate and a vote.

Murray conceded there are still high hurdles to clear, including end-of-year budget chaos with Republicans planning to extend the freeze on spending levels from fiscal 2017 at least through Dec. 22 to avoid a government shutdown.

Also, the Caring for Our Veterans Act carries a five-year price tag of \$56 billion, including \$3.4 billion to expand eligibility for care and to improve caregiver benefits. A Choice reform package taking shape in the House would cost \$15 billion less and doesn't include caregiver benefit expansion, leaving lawmakers with a significant disparity to reconcile. Passage of any Choice reform legislation before January, when the first round of budget negotiations expires, is increasingly unlikely.

Whether passage occurs in December or in the early months of 2018, Murray is hopeful that she and Senate colleagues, buoyed by strong support of veteran service organizations, can win expansion of caregiver benefits as part of any final Choice reform package that is negotiated with the House.

Even if that strategy succeeds, caregivers of severely injured veterans from earlier wars face at least a year's wait and possibly longer before the first group of them gains eligibility for a monthly stipend,

MILITARY UPDATE

pend, skill training and other benefits that first became available to the Post-9/11 generation of caregivers six years ago.

That caregivers of vets from earlier wars, including Vietnam and Korea, aren't yet eligible for benefits bestowed on Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans "is something I hear about all the time from those I call the hidden heroes of this country," Murray said. The caregivers don't go to war, she added, "but are caring for someone who did, who needs that care, and [to provide it] they give up so much. To know we are moving forward to expand [benefits] to veterans of all ages, and to expand some services I know are so critical, is a great first step."

Replacing Choice. The foundation of the Caring for Our Veterans Act, however, is provisions to replace the flawed 2014 Choice program, which Congress rushed to enact amid a VA patient wait-time scandal. It was meant to give veterans greater access to care. But the program's flaws for VA care are longer than 30 days or involved one-way trips longer than 40 miles.

The Senate committee, led by Chairman Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and ranking Democrat Jon Tester, of Montana, has endorsed the Choice replacement plan that Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and staff shaped over the past year. It would scrap wait-time and mileage triggers for automatic access to non-VA community health care. Instead, each VA-enrolled patient would be assigned to a VA primary care provider who would be responsible for all referrals, including to non-VA care, based on clinical needs and after consulting with the patient.

The reform plan, which VA calls the CARE — for Coordinated Access & Rewarding Experiences — Act, also would consolidate seven "community care" programs down to one, strengthen partnerships with private providers and state and federal departments, improve payment

processes and information sharing with private-sector providers, and build out high-performing civilian provider networks across the country to support the VA in giving patients timely, quality care when the VA cannot.

The plan also would authorize the VA to negotiate with a commercial retailer like Walgreens or CVS to offer veterans access to walk-in clinics for treatment of minor injuries or illnesses. Shulkin said the first two visits per year would be free for veterans with service-connected conditions, with other veterans paying the same co-pay they do at the VA. After two visits, veterans with service-connected conditions would see a modest co-pay and others would pay more than they do for VA care.

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, unveiled his own plan to replace Choice in late October. His bill VA Care in the Community Act (HR 4424) would be similar to the Senate plan but doesn't support a network of commercially run walk-in clinics.

As the two chambers move to adopt a final Choice reform plan, the VA has confirmed reports that it, the White House and the Department of Defense are considering having veterans use the Tricare networks of civilian health care providers that the military relies on to support its own medical system. The Trump administration sees significant potential savings from a merger of networks.

The issue wasn't discussed at the Senate committee hearing late last month nor by the House Committee when Roe unveiled his own Choice reform bill.

In recent months these committees seemed intent on having a replacement plan for Choice approved this month, given that funds for Choice are to run out by early January. The goal now appears to be to keep Choice operating through 2018 with a fresh appropriation of as much as \$4 billion. That would give the House and Senate months longer to reconcile plans to replace Choice and perhaps consider what other options networks might play in any final design.

Caregiver expansion. So far only the Senate bill of Choice reforms includes language to expand eligibility for caregiver benefits. But Murray and caregiver advocates say that both Isakson and ranking Democrat Tester gave the caregiver provisions a strong endorsement in marking up their bill last week.

The House committee didn't hold a hearing this year on a companion caregiver bill introduced by Rep. James Langevin, D-R.I., but it has 82 co-sponsors.

Under their bill, caregiver benefits couldn't be expanded to older generations until the VA certifies it has modernized its information technology sufficiently to support a bigger program. That could take at least a year.

Benefits then would be extended first to caregivers of veterans severely injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, which would include the Vietnam War and earlier conflicts. If that expansion runs well, two years later eligibility for the program would be opened to veterans with severe injuries sustained in the line of duty from May 8, 1975, through Sept. 10, 2001.

More than 22,000 Persian Gulf veterans currently eligible for benefits. The Congressional Budget Office estimated last year that 20,000 more veterans would benefit from caregiver benefits in the first year of stage one expansion. That would grow to roughly 44,000 more in three years. With stage two expansion, 20,000 more veterans with caregivers, including Persian Gulf War vets, would gain access.

CBO estimated the average cost to the VA per participant at \$30,000 a year when planned improvements to legal and financial advice services are considered. Murray's provisions also seek to improve state calculations to make fully include observations of caregivers on the bill they spend providing daily care. "There are a lot of caregivers who are absolutely counting on this," Murray said. "It's survival for them and it's what we owe them."

Sent comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

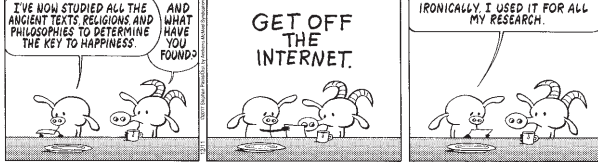
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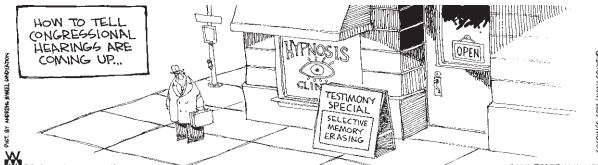
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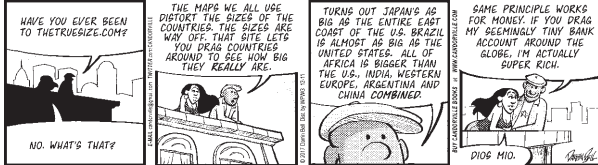
Pearls Before Swine



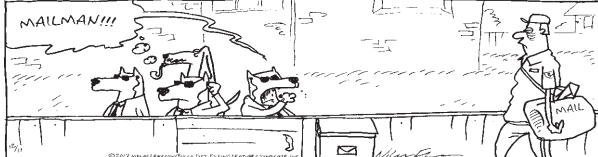
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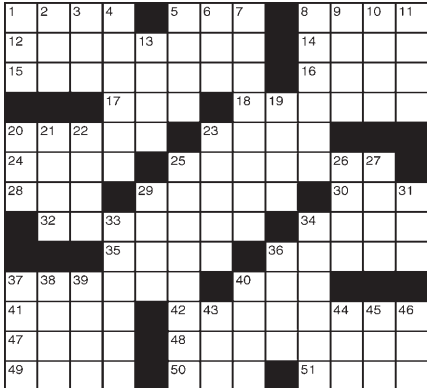
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

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- 5 Jazzy style
- 8 June honorees
- 12 Rose Bowl city
- 14 Stretches (out)
- 15 Burr's duel victim
- 16 Ale measure
- 17 Bro's kin
- 18 Sullies
- 20 Ancient manuscript
- 23 Stylish
- 24 Hertz rival
- 25 Country singer
- Blake
- 28 Bit of wit
- 29 Head lights?
- 30 Victory sign
- 32 Explosive measure
- 34 Equipment
- 35 Pudding variety
- 36 After-dinner remarks?
- 37 Santa's ride
- 40 — polloi
- 41 Impudent
- 42 Alberta's capital
- 47 Brewer's kin
- 48 Observed from the sidelines
- 49 Yon folks
- 50 "Mayday!"
- 51 Tennis legend
- Arthur

DOWN

- 1 Speedometer
- stat
- 2 Small battery
- 3 Belief
- 4 Speakers' platforms
- 5 Wagers
- 6 Music's Yoko
- 7 Temple of the gods
- 8 Portray
- 9 Related
- 10 Fender bender
- 11 Bygone fliers
- 13 Nero's 559
- 19 Has a bug
- 20 Bottle top
- 21 Egg
- 22 Eat in style
- 23 Daphnis' love
- 25 Messenger bags
- 26 Done with
- 27 Tide type
- 29 Reagan Cabinet member
- 31 Hosp. sections
- 33 Fearless
- 34 Papua New —
- 36 Library loan
- 37 Espy
- 38 Wife of Jacob
- 39 Gaelic
- 40 Med. plan options
- 43 "Cock-a-doodle- —"
- 44 QB's goals
- 45 La-la lead-in
- 46 SSW opposite

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-11

CRYPTOQUIP

B W B P Q S A V A L W W J
Y L M H A Q N X P A Y P E D H W U M
V C S V M V S A A H E L U Y S U N
W Q E M C W A V J L Q Y M: V C H
V C A H H M X A W W D H M.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A SOLDIER MAKES PLANS TO SWAP ONE CLEAVER FOR ANOTHER, WHAT WILL HE DO? SWITCH ARMY KNIVES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T


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- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Announcements 040

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Be aware of the common red flags.
Some of the latest Scam fads are:

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- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

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Pro football

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AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
East	West	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	0.833	343	222
Jacksonville	6	0.500	227	283
N.Y. Jets	5	0.417	266	288
Suffolk	5	0.417	209	298
Miami	5	0.417	209	298

South				
Tennessee	4	0.400	267	286
Jacksonville	4	0.400	267	286
Houston	4	0.400	267	286
Indianapolis	3	0.300	250	310

North				
Pittsburgh	10	0.833	281	213
Baltimore	7	0.500	283	207
Cincinnati	5	0.417	219	238
Cleveland	0	0.000	116	308

West				
Kansas City	6	0.500	303	274
L.A. Chargers	6	0.500	268	212
Oakland	6	0.500	268	212
Cleveland	3	0.300	206	215

NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
Philadelphia	10	0.833	361	215
San Francisco	6	0.500	286	284
Washington	5	0.417	272	214
N.Y. Giants	2	0.167	189	291

South				
New Orleans	9	0.450	292	263
Atlanta	8	0.400	286	284
Tampa Bay	4	0.333	243	284

North				
Minnesota	10	0.833	285	204
Baltimore	6	0.500	314	208
Green Bay	6	0.500	258	281
Cleveland	6	0.500	258	281

West				
L.A. Rams	3	0.250	361	322
Seattle	3	0.250	267	292
Arizona	5	0.417	219	310
San Francisco	5	0.417	219	310

Thursday's games				
Atlanta 38, Browns 20				
Sunday's games				
Oakland at Kansas City				
San Francisco at Houston				
Minnesota at Carolina				
Cincinnati at Cincinnati				
Green Bay at Cleveland				
Cleveland at Tampa Bay				
Indianapolis at Buffalo				
Dallas at N.Y. Giants				
Washington at L.A. Chargers				
Tennessee at Arizona				
Augsburg (Ill.) vs. Chicago (Ill.)				
Seattle at Jacksonville				
N.Y. Jets at New Orleans				
Baltimore at Pittsburgh				

Monday's game				
Atlanta 38, Browns 20				
Thursday, Dec. 14				
Denver at Indianapolis				
Saturday, Dec. 16				
Chicago at Detroit				
L.A. Chargers at Kansas City				

Sunday, Dec. 17				
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants				
Cincinnati at Minnesota				
Oakland at Jacksonville				
Arizona at Washington				
San Francisco at New Orleans				
Miami at Buffalo				
Green Bay at Carolina				
Edgewood (Ill.) vs. Chicago (Ill.)				
L.A. Rams at Seattle				
New England at Pittsburgh				
Tennessee at San Francisco				
Dallas at Oakland				

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC/MLS

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

Lee shines for Falcons

CYONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea celebrate birthday. Get first win of the season. What a nice way for coach Steve Boyd to fete his 65th.

Caleb Lee, the lone returner on Far East Division I boys champion Seoul American, had 21 points, six rebounds, four steals and three assists Saturday to help the Falcons edge Daegu 45-44 on Saturday.

Boyd could have made a big deal of it being his birthday, but he said he insisted on not saying anything to his players until after the game. "I didn't want to put any extra pressure on them," he said.

Boyd sounded particularly pleased with the performance by Lee, a 5-foot-7 sophomore guard. "He had a pretty big game, perhaps his best game overall," Boyd said.

Though part of the team that won Seoul American's fourth D-I title last February, Boyd said Lee "didn't get a whole lot of experience" playing behind several senior guards. "So this year, I've put a lot of responsibility on his shoulders," Boyd said.

The Falcons, who entered Saturday's game 0-3, trailed by four after one period but rallied and pushed ahead by nine points entering the final period. The Warriors came back and led by a point with 31 seconds left.

"Daegu hit a couple of threes that got them right back in it," Boyd said. "We just happened to be where we needed to be" at the end.

And the game may not have ended yet; Daegu coach Blake Sims filed a protest, claiming that the official scorer failed to record two points that might have made the Warriors a winner. It was not known when a ruling might take place.

Humphreys: For the first time in the school's five-year history, the Blackhawks won all three of their duals in a DODEA Korea four-way competition. Humphreys won 28-9, 31-9 and 29-20 over Daegu, Osan and Seoul American. Peter Teasdale led the way with two pins at 135 pounds.

Daegu: Reigning Far East tournament Outstanding Wrestler Hunter Lane showed he hasn't lost a step in his regular-season debut. The senior 158-pounder won twice by technical fall for the Warriors, who edged Osan 14-11 and lost 39-11 to Seoul and 28-9 to Humphreys.

Osan: While the Cougars went winless as a team at Daejeon, the brothers VanHoose performed solidly. Reigning Far East champion Kojiro won twice by pin and Hunter, a runner-up last year, went 2-1, winning twice by technical fall following a loss by tech fall to Lane.

Kinnick: Red Devils wrestling won five weight classes at CAJ, Devonney Stanley (135), Mason Smith (141), Jacob Castro (148), Dallas Swenson (158) and Connor Joy (heavyweight), but Kinnick came in second behind its biggest rival St. Mary's 99-96.



SARAH DOYLE/Special to Stars and Stripes

Seoul American's Miguel Villareal looks to pass as Daegu's Ethan Rodriguez applies pressure on Saturday.

Guam High: The Panthers grabbed the last spot in the boys soccer quarterfinals. Guam, the No. 8 seed, will play regular-season champion John F. Kennedy Monday at Guam Football Association's home field.

Edgren: Senior point guard Aliyah Scott had a combined 13 assists for the Eagles, who improved to 5-2, sweeping Division I Nike C. Kinnick 48-44 and 25-13 over the weekend. ... Sophomore Raphael Gomez won at 129 pounds, his first weight-class title of the season in Saturday's Christian Academy Japan Invitational.

Perry: One big thing came in a small package on Saturday for Samurai wrestling: Kadee Samford won the title in the girls A (small) Division at CAJ. Heavyweight Marshall China took second place and four others placed third.

E.J. King: The Cobras boys got a huge weekend from junior Dyson Robinson, who averaged 25.7 points over three victories by the Cobras in the Western Japan Athletic Association Basketball

Festival at Kobe. King's girls also won their three games at Osaka.

Yokota: Britney Bailey broke the 17-year-old DODEA Japan record for most points in a single girls basketball game, with 43 points in a 66-21 rout of St. Maur. Yevonne Sears of Edgren scored 41 points in a game in February 2000. The DODEA Pacific mark of 44 points was set in November 2009 by Gabby Falco of Kubasaki.

Kubasaki: Ilijah Washington netted a double-double of 21 points and 24 rebounds, leading four players in double figures, but the Dragons boys needed overtime to win 73-69 at Maehara on Saturday. Kubasaki had a much easier time at home Friday, 81-59 over Kitanakagusaku.

Kadena: Freshman Montez Young Jr. continues to post big numbers for Panthers boys basketball. He netted 24 points, leading three players in double figures, and Kadena tuned up for Friday's second meeting with Kubasaki, beating Zion Christian 79-36 Saturday.

— Stars and Stripes



MARK BLINCH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto FC's Michael Bradley, front right, and Jozy Altidore, left, celebrate defeating the Seattle Sounders to win the MLS Cup in Toronto on Saturday. Altidore scored the first goal.

MLS Cup

Toronto outduels Seattle for title

By IAN HARRISON
Associated Press

TORONTO — This wasn't the kind of MLS Cup performance the Seattle Sounders were hoping for.

For from it. Jozy Altidore opened the scoring in the 67th minute and Toronto FC beat Seattle 2-0 on Saturday to become the first Canadian champion in league history, and deny the Sounders a repeat triumph.

Toronto avenged a penalty-shootout loss to Seattle last year in the title game.

"Lifting this trophy has been an obsession for the last 364 days, not just for me but for every single guy on our team," Toronto captain Michael Bradley said. "There's no other word for it."

Sounders coach Brian Schmetzer pointed to a single statistic, duels won, to illustrate the disparity between the teams. Toronto won 58 duels to Seattle's 24. "We picked the wrong time to have a game that was below our standards," Schmetzer said. "We put our best attacking lineup out there but we weren't able to keep the ball in any part of the game. That was not one of our stellar performances."

In the 67th, Sebastian Giovinco's pass from just inside the Seattle half helped Altidore split a pair of defenders. Altidore took a few steps to his left and fired the ball over goalkeeper Stefan Frei, setting off a wild celebration among the 30,584 fans that left BMO Field shaking.

Altidore's goal snapped Seattle's lengthy streak of keeping opponents off the scoreboard. The Sounders had not been scored upon since a 2-0 loss to Philadelphia on Oct. 1, going six games without conceding.

Victor Vasquez made it 2-0 in injury time from close range after substitute Armando Cooper's shot rebounded off the post.

Altidore was selected MLS Cup MVP.

"To cap it off the way we did shows what this team is all about," he said.

Altidore scored in Toronto's 1-0 victory over Columbus Crew in the Eastern Conference final. He had 15 goals in the regular season, second on the team to Giovinco's 16. Altidore, who injured his right ankle minutes after scoring against the Crew, was replaced by Nick Hagglund in the 86th minute.

Toronto won the title in its 11th season, TFC did not reach the playoffs until 2015, the first season it avoided losing more often than it won.

Toronto's 69 points this season are the most in league history, and the team won its first Supporters' Shield as regular season champion, defeating MLS rival Montreal Impact in that final.

"In terms of seasons, I think we had the greatest season in the history of the league," Toronto coach Greg Vanney said. "I don't think it's debatable."

Seattle was seeking to become the fourth back-to-back champion in league history, joining D.C. United (1996 and 1997), Houston (2006 and 2007) and the Los Angeles Galaxy (2011 and 2012).

"The final game is what matters most and we didn't come to play," midfielder Cristian Roldan said.

Toronto outshot Seattle 22-7 and had 11 shots on target compared to two for the Sounders.

"At some point, if you're going to rely on your goalkeeper that often and in that many critical moments, one of them is going to get through," Schmetzer said.

Frei, who began his MLS career in Toronto, said he was "frustrated and disappointed" by Seattle's failure to match Toronto's desire and intensity.

"I'm disappointed in our performance," Frei said. "Toronto deserved to win, there's no two ways about it. You can only weather the storm for so long."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Bowman helps BC knock off No. 1 Duke

Associated Press

BOSTON — Outside the Boston College basketball office, on the way to the practice gym, the walls are decorated with giant pictures from the Eagles' biggest wins.

The Sweet 16 appearance in 2006. Upsets over No. 1 North Carolina and No. 6 Duke in 2009. A victory over top-ranked Syracuse four years ago.

Make room for an addition: Boston College 89, Duke 84, an upset that sent the No. 1 Blue Devils to their first loss.

"We're putting one up for this one," coach Jim Christian said. "That's where I would put it. If you get a poster up on that wall, that's a big thing because of the proud history of this place."

Ky Bowman scored 30 points, adding 10 rebounds and nine assists to help Boston College (7-3, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) win its third straight game against the No. 1 team in The Associated Press Top 25. Jordan Chatman scored 22, hitting four straight free throws in the final 16 seconds to ice it.

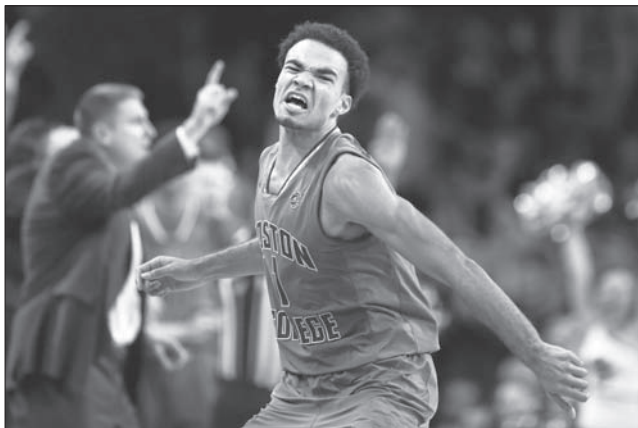
"I think this is probably going to be one of the top ones," Bowman said.

Gary Trent Jr. scored 25 and Marvin Bagley III had 15 points and 12 rebounds for Duke (11-1, 0-1 ACC).

The Blue Devils erased a 10-point deficit in the second half and led 79-75 with 3:30 to play. Boston College scored 12 of the next 14 points, getting a pair of three-pointers from Robinson. Duke's Trevon Duval drove to the basket to make it 83-81 with 31 seconds left, but then he was called for an intentional foul on Chatman as BC tried to dribble out the clock.

Chatman made both foul shots, and then with BC retaining possession he was fouled again and made two more. A three-pointer by Trent made it 87-84, but then Jerome Robinson was sent to the line and hit his free throws with 6 seconds left to ice it.

"This isn't about us being horrible. This is about how great they were. They were terrific. Not good, terrific," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We've got to get better. But I knew that. If we won, I would tell you we have to get better."



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Boston College's Jerome Robinson reacts after scoring during the second half against Duke on Saturday.

No. 3 Michigan State 88, Southern Utah 64: Miles Bridges, Nick Ward and Jaren Jackson each scored 17 points for the host Spartans.

Michigan State (9-1) has won eight straight by double digits since losing to top-ranked Duke.

The Thunderbirds (5-4) had won three straight. They kept it relatively close at the Breslin Center for a while, trailing by just five points midway through the second half.

No. 5 Florida 66, No. 17 Cincinnati 60: At Newark, N.J., Chris Chiozza scored the final six points of the game and Florida snapped a three-game losing streak in the second game of the Never Forget Tribute Classic at the Prudential Center.

Chiozza put the Gators (6-3) ahead 62-60 with a drive across the lane with 1:12 to play.

The senior guard added two free throws with 20.1 seconds to go and he closed out the scoring with a fastbreak layup after a turnover by Cincinnati (7-2), which lost its second straight game.

Egor Koulechov had 21 points

to lead Florida.

Backup guard Cane Broome had 15 points to lead Cincinnati.

No. 6 Wichita State 78, Oklahoma State 66: Landry Shamet scored a career-high 30 points for the visiting Shockers.

Conner Frankamp scored 14 points and Darrell Willis Jr. added 12 to Wichita State (8-1), which made 12 of 26 three-point attempts and outrebounced the Cowboys 36-26.

Tavarius Shine scored a career-high 20 points and Mitchell Solomon added a career-best 17 for Oklahoma State (7-2).

No. 7 Texas A&M 73, Prairie View A&M 53: Junior guard Admon Gilder scored 14 points and host Texas A&M overcame a sluggish start.

The Aggies (8-1) led 44-40 5 minutes into the second half before scoring the next 18 points over a 7-minute span to put away the game against the outmanned Panthers (2-7).

No. 8 Kentucky 93, Monmouth 76: Hamidou Diallo scored a season-high 23 points for the Wildcats at Madison Square Garden.

Kentucky (8-1) won its sixth in a row. PJ Washington added 20 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander chipped in 15 and Nick Richards had 10.

Monmouth (3-7) has lost three straight.

No. 9 Notre Dame 92, Delaware 68: At Newark, Del., Bonzie Colson had 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Fighting Irish in coach Mike Brey's return to Delaware.

Matt Farrell scored 24 points and TJ Gibbs had 21 to help Notre Dame (8-2) rebound from an 80-77 loss Tuesday to Ball State.

Brey returned to the Bob Carpenter Center for the first time since the end of his Delaware head coaching stint in 2000.

Kevin Anderson scored 23 points for the Blue Hens (4-6).

No. 13 Xavier 96, Colorado 69: At Cincinnati, Trevon Bluiett scored 25 points and J.P. Macura emerged from his slump by making his first six shots as Xavier completed a streak of non-conference paycheck wins.

The Musketeers (9-1) already had victories over Baylor and

cross-town rival Cincinnati, which beat them last season, and they set a goal of completing the trilogy. Last season, they blew a nine-point lead in the second half and lost 68-66 at Colorado.

Namon Wright had 18 points for the Buffaloes (7-2).

Arkansas 95, No. 14 Minnesota 79: Jaylen Barford scored 22 points and freshman Daniel Gafford added 16 on 8-for-8 shooting for host Arkansas.

The victory is the first for the Razorbacks (7-2) over a Top 15 team since defeating No. 5 Texas A&M during the 2015-16 season, and it extends their home winning streak to eight games.

Jordan Murphy led Minnesota (8-3) with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

No. 18 West Virginia 69, Pittsburgh 60: At Pittsburgh, Jevon Carter scored 19 points and Dexter Miles Jr. added 15 as the Mountaineers fended off a furious second-half run.

Lamont West finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds for West Virginia (9-1), which has won nine straight following a season-opening loss to Texas A&M.

Ryan Luther overcame early foul trouble to lead Pitt (5-5) with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

No. 19 Seton Hall 90, VCU 67: At Newark, N.J., Angel Delgado had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Seton Hall in the Never Forget Tribute Classic at the Prudential Center.

Myles Powell added five of his 17 points in a game-breaking 13-1 first-half run, for the Pirates (8-1), who have won four straight since being beaten at the buzzer by Rhode Island on Thanksgiving.

Justin Tillman had 14 of his 20 points in the second half to lead VCU (5-5).

No. 23 Baylor 105, Randall 82: Nuni Omot scored 30 points while Jo Lual-Acuil and freshman Tristan Clark notched double-doubles to lead Baylor at Fort Hood, Texas.

Trey Sneed scored 29 points and Xavier Hunter added 23 for Randall (5-9).

No. 24 Tennessee 81, Lipscomb 71: Grant Williams overcame early foul trouble to score 19 points in host Tennessee's first game as a ranked team since December 2010.

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June 21 — NBA draft.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Landslide decision

Oklahoma QB Mayfield goes from walk-on to Heisman trophy winner

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baker Mayfield took a unique road to the Heisman Trophy, a long and winding climb from walk-on to one of the most accomplished players to ever play college football.

The brash, flag-planting Oklahoma quarterback became the sixth Sooner to win Heisman on Saturday night in one of the most lopsided votes in the 83-year history of the award.

Stanford running back Bryce Love was the runner-up, making it five second-place finishes for the Cardinal since 2009. Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson, last year's Heisman winner, was third, the best finish by a returning winner since Tim Tebow of Florida in 2008.

Mayfield received 732 first-place votes and 2,398 points. Love had 75 first-place votes and 1,300 points and Jackson received 47 and 793. Mayfield received 86 percent of the total points available, the third-highest percentage in Heisman history behind Ohio State's Troy Smith (91.63 percent) in 2006 and Oregon's Marcus Mariota (90.92) in 2014.

Mayfield is the third player to win the Heisman heading to the College Football Playoff. The second-ranked Sooners meet No. 3 Georgia in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1. He is the first senior to win the award since Smith and the first Heisman winner to begin his career as a walk-on since athletic scholarships started in the 1950s.

"It's been a tough journey," Mayfield said during his acceptance speech. He choked back tears, thanking his parents and first-year Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley.

"Tried to play it cool," Mayfield said later. "That's not my thing though. I'm a guy that wears his emotions on his sleeve."

Mayfield finished fourth in the Heisman voting two years ago and third last year. "It's motivating for me to be the best in the country," he said.

Mayfield entered this season as one of the Heisman favorites and jumped toward the front of the pack when he led the Sooners to an early victory at Ohio State that he celebrated by planting the OU flag in the Horseshoe turf.

He later apologized for that, but that has been Mayfield's career. Spectacular play fueled by grudges, slights and trying to prove doubters wrong. Moxie is the word that gets attached to Mayfield often, but at times poor judgment has gotten him in trouble and off the field.

Those were really the only marks on Mayfield's Heisman résumé because his play has been consistently stellar. He has thrown for 4,340 yards and 41 touchdowns this season for the Big 12 champion Sooners (12-1). For his career, Mayfield is eighth in FBS history in yards passing (14,320) and sixth in touchdown passes (129).

Pretty good for a scrappy kid who grew up in Austin, Texas, rooting for Oklahoma, but did not receive a scholarship offer out of high school from either the hometown Longhorns or his beloved Sooners.

At Lake Travis High School, Mayfield won a state championship at a school that regularly pumps out Division I quarterbacks. He received one offer from a Power Five program in Washington State.

"There's something to be said for having

By the numbers

732

First-place votes for Sooners QB Baker Mayfield (2,398 points).

86

Percent of the total points available Mayfield received, the third-highest percentage in Heisman history.

47

College games played by Mayfield. Only USC's Carson Palmer with 50 had played more when he won his Heisman Trophy in 2002.

SOURCE: Associated Press



PHOTOS BY CRAIG RUTLÉ/AP



Above: Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield poses after winning the Heisman Trophy on Saturday in New York. **Left:** Heisman finalists Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson, left, and Stanford running back Bryce Love take questions before the announcement of the final selection.

Later in the year, it was Kansas — of all teams — that tried to get the volatile Mayfield off his game. Jayhawks captains refused to shake his hand during the pregame coin flip. They trash-talked Mayfield and even took a late hit at him. He responded by screaming profanities and making a lewd gesture that television cameras caught. That led to a public apology from Mayfield, his third this year.

The first came after he was arrested in Fayetteville, Ark., in February for public intoxication, disorderly conduct and fleeing. He pleaded guilty to three misdemeanors and paid a \$300 fine. The second came after that flag planting in Columbus, Ohio, after the Sooners beat the Buckeyes.

Mayfield is an old-school Heisman winner. For decades, seniors dominated the Heisman, but over the last 10 years four juniors, four sophomores and two red-shirt freshmen have won. By comparison, Mayfield has been around forever. He has played 47 college games. Only USC's Carson Palmer with 50 had played more when he won his Heisman in 2002.

There is at least one more game to play for Mayfield, and maybe two. He and the Sooners will go into the playoff as a slight underdog against Georgia, which seems only appropriate for a player who has built his career on exceeding expectations.

Asked what has been his best moment, Mayfield predictably answered: "It hasn't happened yet."

sive coordinator. The two have been a perfect match.

"For any coach to have a chance for your guy to be standing here, to win the Heisman Trophy, and just to do it kind of at the end of such a long journey we've had to get it, very special," Riley said.

Mayfield's departure from Texas Tech was contentious. At first, he lost a year of eligibility, despite not being on scholarship. He eventually got that year back when the Big 12 tweaked its rules, but he never did let it go. For his last game against Texas Tech this season, he wore the "Traitor" T-shirt that some Red Raiders fans wore when he first returned to Lubbock with Oklahoma.

just good of confidence in yourself," Mayfield said. "Just true belief. My journey, like I said earlier is not over, but it's about facing adversity. If there's mistakes, being up front about it and then moving forward and being better in the future."

He walked-on at Texas Tech and started eight games as a freshman in 2013. With a glut of quarterbacks in Lubbock, Mayfield did and had only one school in mind. He walked-on again at Oklahoma.

Mayfield thanked former Sooners coach Bob Stoops, who also was at the Best Buy Theater in midtown Manhattan, for welcoming a "chubby, unathletic kid into the program with open arms." That was also Riley's first season as Oklahoma's offen-

ARMY-NAVY GAME

Again: Perry's 250 yards not enough to lift Navy

FROM BACK PAGE

"All year long we've preached being warriors in the fourth quarter and winning the fourth quarter," Army senior defensive end John Voit said. "We just did that tonight. Navy played great, but in that fourth quarter we knew we had to win it. We did, and we came out on top."

Navy appeared to be on its way to a comeback victory behind quarterback Malcolm Perry, who rushed for 250 yards and a TD on 30 carries. Perry led a methodical drive, but Navy took two-false start penalties deep in Army territory. The latter flag left the Midshipmen staring at third-and-11 from the Army 31 with just 22 seconds left. Perry carried the ball to the middle of the field, setting up Moehring's potential game winner with three seconds to go.

He made a good effort. The kick had the distance, but drifted just to the left, falling gently to the turf as the snow had all afternoon. As the ball landed, the Army sideline and the cadets in the stands erupted.

"It is Navy football. When we are down at the goal line and close to the end zone, we have to put the ball in the end zone," Perry said. "We just didn't. That hurt us in the end. We really wanted to get the ball in the end zone."

Moehring, a junior, kicked a 24-yard field goal that gave the Midshipmen a 13-7 lead after three quarters and a 28-yarder in the first quarter.

"So close and our kids fought hard, so you give our kids credit," said Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo. "They (Army) fought hard too and played well. We had another penalty on another drive and couldn't sustain it in decent field position. In a close game it is the team that doesn't make mistakes, and those penalties hurt us."

Bradshaw, who rushed for 94 yards on 21 carries, was voted the game's MVP. He also led Army to its first consecutive wins over Navy since the Clinton administration, running for the deciding score in both victories.

"It feels amazing," he said. "For one, to understand all the work that we've put in since I've been here, since we've been together. We've trusted the process, and we've grown as an organization."

Army and Navy, both proponents of the triple-option offense, came into the game ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the nation in rushing, respectively, and they stuck to the script. The Black Knights ran for 221 yards and the Midshipmen 294.

Army attempted just one pass, a 20-yarder from Bradshaw to junior fullback Calen Holt. Navy went 1-for-2 passing for 2 yards.

Army put together a promising drive early in the fourth quarter, but a false-start penalty on the 12th play of the possession gave the Black Knights a third-and-13 at the Navy 15-yard line. The Midshipmen strung out a reverse for a loss of two yards to force a 35-yard field goal attempt that

Wilson missed wide to the right with 14:55 remaining.

The Black Knights' defense stepped up on Navy's next possession. Voit and junior linebacker James Nachtigal stopped senior fullback Chris High on third-and-8 to force a punt and put the ball



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL/
Stars and Stripes

Top: West Point cadets celebrate after the Black Knights beat the Midshipmen 14-13. **Above:** Army's John Trainor carries to the 1-yard line, giving the Black Knights the field position for them to punch in the winning touchdown. **Right:** Navy QB Malcolm Perry had 250 yards rushing on 30 carries, including a 68-yard touchdown run.



Perry, who set the offensive tone by carrying the ball on the first six plays for the Midshipmen. It was revealed after the game that Niumatalolo had given the nod to Perry two weeks ago. It now looks like the job is his to lose.

Navy forced the first punt of the game two minutes into the second quarter. It didn't take the Midshipmen long to capitalize. On the third play of the possession, Perry took the snap, started to his left before cutting back to the right side

of the Army defensive line. In a flash, the speedy Perry was in the secondary and flying down the right sideline untouched.

Army's next game is a Dec. 23 meeting with San Diego State (10-2) in the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas. Navy, which has lost six of its past seven games, will face Virginia (6-6) in the Military Bowl at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis on Dec. 28.

moores.sean@stripes.com

Academy closes case on Bradshaw

By MIKE CRANSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The U.S. Military Academy says sexual assault allegations against Army quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw were proved to be unfounded and the case is closed.

The academy released a statement Saturday, a day after the Daily Beast published a story in which former cadet Madeline Lewis said Bradshaw raped her in 2014.

Bradshaw, a senior captain, played and scored the go-ahead touchdown later Saturday in Army's 14-13 victory over Navy.

"USMA treated Cadet Bradshaw as it would any other cadet under similar circumstances," the statement said. "It fully investigated every allegation against him and suspended him from NCAA football competition during the eventually unfounded criminal investigation."

Lewis said she met Bradshaw, a friend of her roommate, three weeks into the 2014 school. She told the Daily Beast she returned to her room after a shower one night, when Bradshaw assaulted her.

Bradshaw did not play during the 2014 season. The academy said Bradshaw was later disciplined for a separate academic incident in which he didn't properly cite material in a paper.

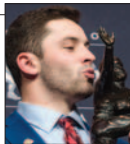
"USMA stands behind Cadet Bradshaw, as it stands behind our young men and women who choose to become part of it at great personal expense in order to emerge on the other end as leaders of character," the academy statement said. "These are leaders who are not immune from mistakes or their consequences but who are uniquely equipped to learn and grow from them."

Army athletics spokesman Matt Faulkner said at the beginning of Army's postgame press conference Saturday that players and coaches would answer no questions about the incident.

Coach Jeff Monken was asked how the story affected Bradshaw ahead of Saturday's game.

"Nothing affects that guy," he said. "He's a poised leader and he does not flinch. He does not flinch. You find people who are very successful, you find a competitor that is a winner, he finds a way to get things done. Take any great player you want to think of, Michael Jordan or Larry Bird or whoever, that's what this guy is. He's going to find a way. Throw anything at him, he's going to find a way."

SPORTS



Heisman landslide
OU QB Mayfield wins lopsided
Trophy voting » **Page 30**

ARMY-NAVY GAME



TIM TAI, PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS/TNS

Army quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw runs the ball Saturday during the annual Army-Navy Game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. Army won 14-13; Bradshaw was MVP.

Knights' day again

Last-second Navy FG falls short as Army earns first streak since 1992-96

By SEAN MOORES
Stars and Stripes

PHILADELPHIA — After 14 years of futility, West Point has a streak of its own. Army quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw scored on a keeper with 5:10 remaining, and Navy kicker Bennett Moehring missed a 48-yard field goal attempt on the final play Saturday as Army held on for a 14-13 victory in the 118th Army-Navy Game before a crowd of 68,625 at snowy Lincoln Financial Field.

Inside:

■ USMA says Bradshaw sexual assault allegation unfounded, Page 31

Army (9-3), which snapped a 14-game losing streak to Navy (6-6) with a 21-17 victory last year, won back-to-back meetings for the first time since winning five in a row between 1992 and 1996.

The Black Knights also won the Commander in Chief's Trophy, presented to the winner of the annual football competition between Army, Navy and Air Force, for the first time since 1996.

The past four Army-Navy Games have been decided by a touchdown or less, and by a total of 16 points.

Bradshaw, a senior, scored on a sneak from the half-yard line to tie the game, and senior Blake Wilson's point-after kick put the Black Knights up 14-13.

Army's go-ahead drive was a 13-play,

65-yarder that took 7:40 off the clock. It nearly ended one play sooner. Senior running back John Trainor took a pitch from Bradshaw and headed down the left side of the field. He spun away from one tackler and tiptoed down the sideline for an 8-yard gain before being pushed out of bounds by Navy senior cornerback Elijah Merchant. Trainor was ruled out just short of the goal line, but it was close enough to warrant a replay review. The call stood, but Bradshaw finished the drive on the next play.

SEE AGAIN ON PAGE 31

Toronto shuts out Sounders to win MLS Cup » **Page 26**

